

Things to Consider

Wind

Wind can damage plants, especially when growing vertically.

Learn what direction the majority of the wind in your area travels and arrange your plants so the wind blows across them, not through them.

Safety

When growing vertically always make sure your containers are safely and securely mounted.

Do not forget when mounting containers that they will be much heavier when wet and when your plants reach their full size.

Potting Soil

Choose a light, peat based potting soil when planting a vertical garden.

This will help keep the weight of your garden down and will help your containers to hold moisture well.

A little bit about...



Green Venture is a community-based, non-profit organization committed to helping Hamilton-area residents live more sustainably where they live, work, and play.

Small Space Gardening



Vertical Gardening



Learn more at:
www.hcgn.ca

Vertical Planters

Skid Garden

Check out the Life On the Balcony blog for a design to turn a skid (or pallet) into a vertical garden.

<http://lifeonthebalcony.com/how-to-turn-a-pallet-into-a-garden/>

PVC Pipe Planter

Use a piece of PVC pipe to create a garden. This style of container is ideal for lettuces or strawberries.

[Example of strawberries growing in PVC pipe from the book Garden Up! by Susan Morrison and Rebecca Sweet.](#)

Stackable Tubs

You can purchase some containers that are made for vertical gardening.

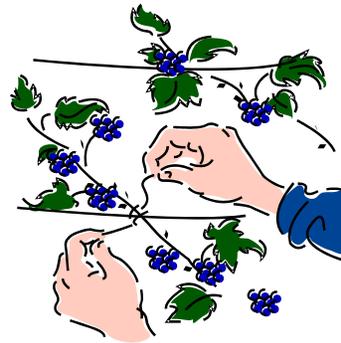
Sometimes called 'strawberry pots' these planters have lots of places to grow plants vertically.

Trellising Plants

Trellising trains a plant to grow upwards, taking advantage of vertical space.

To trellis a plant:

1. Start by attaching a trellis, or placing something else that plants can wrap around near your plants.
2. When plants have grown tall enough, begin to loosely wrap them around the slats on the trellis.
3. Use ties or string to attach plants to the trellis. Do not tie too tightly!
4. Continue to wrap the plant around the trellis as it grows larger.



Good Plants to Trellis

- Tomatoes
- Peas and cucumbers
- Pole beans
- Gourds and squash

Stack Plants

Vertical gardening can also be achieved by 'stacking' plants. Mount containers one above the other to create a wall of fresh vegetables.

Here are a few ideas for stacking:

Gutters

Just cut to size, glue on the ends and drill drainage holes before mounting.



Pockets

You can buy products, like [Woolly Pockets](#), which hang on a wall and are meant to grow all sorts of plants.

Mount Planters

Use your favourite planters and mount them for your own take on a vertical garden. [This example on shelterness.com](#) shows how you can use this design to also add interest to your garden space.