

Buyers' Guide Plastic pots



Decorative planters

Geoff Hodge looks at what's available in plastic pot planters



NOT all of us are blessed with a large garden - and some gardeners only have a patio or narrow balcony to grow on. Even large gardens tend to have a patio area where you can relax and entertain friends - the so called 'outdoor room'. Whether large or small, all gardens will have at least a couple of containers for growing plants in.

especially for winter protection, but the weight is useful for tall plants in windy areas. And there's the other possible drawback with some terracotta pots - they can crack in cold and frosty weather.

Plastic is much cheaper and more economical - although sticking a black plastic bucket on the patio isn't exactly the most ornamental and stylish option! Luckily, plastic containers come in a wide range of styles, colours and designs, and some even make a fairly realistic stab at looking like terracotta, lead and other metals.

Just about every plant can be grown in containers - you just need to match their growth with the size of the container. And, of course, there's a huge range of styles and materials available. Your containers should be seen as part of the garden, match its style and your personal taste.

Stone, metal and terracotta planters are all available, but they're heavy, making them difficult to move around,

Here's my roundup of ornamental and decorative plastic planters. As we all have our own tastes, I've chosen my favourite - but you'll probably prefer something else!

All measurements are external dimensions. The sizes for round containers are given as the diameter at the top.

Algarve Cilindro Planter

Colourful planters in a wide range of sizes and colours with contemporary leaf design. Wheels are available for 40cm to 58cm (16-23in) diameter pots to make it easier to move them.

Colours Between three and 10 different colours, depending on the size
Sizes 25cm to 58cm (10-23in)
Price guide £3.29-£25.99
Supplier Elho



Ambiance LED Planter

A very modern planter, which lights up, providing background mood lighting, using four integral LEDs in the base. It comes with three coloured diffusers to produce four different colour effects.

Colours White, red, blue, green
Size 40cm (16in) **Price guide** £49.95 **Supplier** Elho



Cauldron & Trug Planters

A useful range of small 'quirky' planters for low or table-top displays on the patio.

Colour Black
Sizes Cauldron: 24x15cm high (9½x6in); 35x20cm high (14x8in); Trug: 27.5cm (11in); 37cm (14½in)
Price guide £1.99; £3.19; £1.99; £3.49
Supplier Garland Products



Elios Planter

Range of very realistic, 'rough cast' terracotta-lookalike planters. Decorated with bold floral swag.

Finish Terracotta
Sizes 35cm (14in); 42cm (16½in); 51cm (20½in); 59cm (23½in)
Price guide £17.95; £24.95; £32.95, £39.95
Supplier Primrose



Garland Pot

Realistic terracotta-lookalike planters, which are decorated with a bold floral swag.

Finish Terracotta
Sizes 43cm (17in); 51cm (20½in)
Price guide £22.99; £35.49
Supplier Sankey Garden Products



Grosvenor Planter

A range of economically priced planters, comprising two round and square planters, plus oval planter, corner planter and a trough.

Colours Terracotta; slate
Sizes Round 32cm (12½in), 39cm (15½in); Square 27cm (11in), 33cm (13in), 38cm (15in); Trough 55cm (22in); Oval 55cm (22in)
Price guide £1.99-£4.99
Supplier Thumbs Up



Lazio Planter

Two square planters with traditional lattice design and having a realistic aged lead finish.

Finish Lead
Sizes 32cm (12½in); 38cm (15in)
Price guide £14.99; £19.99; Set of two £29.99
Supplier Ward



Meadowland Planter

This large planter features a delicate floral pattern and bold flared edges, with a water reservoir in the base. Good choice for large shrubs.

Colour Terracotta
Sizes 60cm (24in); Trough 70cm (28in)
Price guide £6.99
Supplier Thumbs Up



Just pay postage and get your free bulbs over the page

Aztec Planter

The three modern, stylish planters have a fabulous look and feel, excellent proportions and rounded edges. An attractive trough is also available.

Finishes Sandstone; dark brown
Sizes 46cmx38.5cm high (18x15in); 38cmx52cm high (15x21in); 45cmx62cm high (18x25in); Trough 80cm (32in)
Price guide £24.99; £24.99; £39.99; £26.99
Supplier Stewart



WIN OUR BEST BUY

We have six of Geoff's Choice Aztec Midi Planters in Sandstone to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Planter Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is May 15. Please write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.

Stewart Garden

Milano Planter

Two planters with an attractive modern look and pewter-lookalike finish.

Finish Pewter
Sizes Square 34cm (13½in); Tall 30x46cm high (12x18in)
Price guide £14.99; £19.99
Supplier Ward



Trojan Planter

Very attractive tall, narrow planters with a realistic natural effect. They would look great with long trailing plants.

Finishes Granite; Terracotta
Sizes 33cm (13in); 38cm (15in); 48cm (19in)
Price guide £22.99; £29.99; £35.49
Supplier Sankey Garden Products



Wave Planter

Stylish, contemporary planters with scalloped design. The range includes a round and square planter and a trough.

Finishes Suede; granite
Sizes Round 39x45cm high (15½x18in); Square 38x45cm high (15x18in); Trough 70cm (28in)
Price guide All £22.99
Supplier Stewart



New stuff

Kit for propagation and planting out

Green Start Coir Pot Set

RRP £7.95

These biodegradable coir pots provide ethically-responsible employment to people in Sri Lanka, and are produced from recycled coconut processing waste so are great for anyone with a 'green' conscience. Pack contains 12 tapered pots, ideal for growing peas, beans and sweetcorn, and six 4cm (1½in) diameter round pots and discs.
Where to find Tel: 0845 402 5300; www.harrodhorticultural.co.uk



Toby's Planting Powder

RRP £9.95

Many gardeners suffer with poor soil or have areas where plants simply fail to thrive. This product encourages a larger root system to establish more quickly, enabling improved uptake of nutrients and water. Toby's Planting Powder is a blend of 18 strains of mycorrhizal fungi and six beneficial bacteria and is ideal for bedding plants, perennials, shrubs and roses. Each 225g (8oz) tub contains enough to treat 100 plants in 9cm (3½in) pots or 15 bare-root plants.
Where to find Tel: 01626 891133; www.tobybuckland.com

Paper Potter and Patter

RRP £4.95 - £9.95

Roll and press your own biodegradable seedling pots from old newspaper with this clever little device. Once you've made your pots, simply fill them and use the oak constructed Paper Patter to firm the compost. Paper Potters are available in two sizes, small, which makes 12.5cm (5in) x 5cm (2in) pots and large, which, makes 16cm (6in) x 9cm (3½in) pots.
Where to find Tel: 0845 402 5300; www.harrodhorticultural.co.uk



Coffee fertiliser

RRP £9.99

Notcutts have come up with a novel use for some of the 27,680 tonnes of coffee waste that goes to landfill each year with a new coffee-based fertiliser. The 100 per cent organic pellets are made with the used coffee beans from Notcutts garden centres, sheep's wool and nutrients including nitrogen, potassium and magnesium. The fertiliser encourages strong root development, repels slugs, retains water and encourages insect and microbial activity. Available in a 5-litre tub.
Where to find Notcutts stores nationwide, www.notcutts.co.uk or tel. 0844 879 4166

Thingamadig

RRP £9

Multi-tasking in the garden is now easier than ever thanks to this clever little tool. Made from stainless steel, the Thingamadig can be used by right or left handed gardeners and features a curved scoop which can be used for digging, trowelling, furrowing, weeding and scooping. It also has two serrated edges, useful for cutting



through roots and stems or even for neatly shearing open bags of compost. The bright blue handle means that should you let go of the Thingamadig for a minute, you'll be able to find it again easily.
Where to find Tel: 0845 676 0640; www.perennial.org.uk

Suppliers
Some suppliers only sell to gardening stores, but you can often buy their products online.

Elho
www.elho.com

Garland Products
01384 278256
www.garlandproducts.com

Primrose
0118 903 5210
www.primrose.co.uk

Sankey Garden Products
0115 927 7335
www.sankeygrowyourown.co.uk

The Stewart Company
020 8603 5700
www.stewartcompany.co.uk

Thumbs Up (Bury)
0161 762 9797
www.thumbsupburylimited.co.uk

Ward by Strata Products
01773 510520
www.strataproducts.co.uk