



FROM THE FILES OF THE DIRT DIVA DIARIES
Container Size Cheat Sheet

Herbs · Fruits & Berries · Ivy's Rules

✦ HERBS

🌿 Herb Container Guide	
HERB	MIN. SIZE
Basil	2 gal
Parsley / Cilantro	2 gal
Dill / Fennel	3 gal
Chives	2 gal
Mint (contain it!)	2 gal (own pot)
Rosemary	5 gal
Thyme / Oregano	2 gal
Sage	3 gal

🍓 FRUITS & BERRIES

🍓 Fruit Container Guide	
PLANT	MIN. SIZE
Strawberries	1 gal per plant
Blueberries	15 gal
Dwarf citrus	15 gal
Dwarf apple / pear	15 gal
Fig	15 gal
Raspberries	10 gal
Dwarf peach / nectarine	15 gal

📌 Ivy's Size-Up Rules

- 📌 When in doubt, go one size bigger — plants can't complain about too much room
- 📌 Larger containers = less frequent watering = happier you
- 📌 Fabric grow bags are great: air-prune roots and prevent overwatering
- 📌 Self-watering containers are worth every penny for tomatoes and peppers

✗ Never Do This

- ✗ Never use garden soil in containers — it compacts and suffocates roots
- ✗ Never skip drainage holes — waterlogged roots = dead plants
- ✗ Never put gravel in the bottom — it creates a waterlogged zone, not drainage
- ✗ Never crowd large plants like squash or tomatoes into 5-gallon containers



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The right-size container for every crop — no guessing required

Ivy says: "Here's the truth — the number one mistake beginners make is going too small. A cramped root system means stressed plants, more watering, and way less food. This cheat sheet tells you exactly what size you need for each crop. Print it, pin it, use it every single time you're standing in the garden center wondering what to grab."

VEGETABLES

✦ Leafy Greens & Quick Crops

CROP	MIN. SIZE	NOTES
Lettuce (any variety)	5 gal	Wide & shallow preferred; succession plant every 2-3 weeks
Spinach	5 gal	Great for window boxes; likes cool weather
Arugula	5 gal	Fast-growing; harvest outer leaves
Kale / Chard	5 gal	One plant per container; long harvest season
Radishes	5 gal	6 inches deep minimum; harvest in 25-30 days
Green onions / Scallions	5 gal	Can pack 12-16 per container; easy beginner crop

🔍 Root Vegetables

CROP	MIN. SIZE
Carrots (short varieties)	5 gal / 12" deep
Carrots (standard)	5 gal / 16" deep
Beets	5 gal / 12" deep
Potatoes	10 gal
Garlic	5 gal / 8" deep

🌱 Beans & Peas

CROP	MIN. SIZE
Bush beans	5 gal
Pole beans	5 gal + trellis
Snap peas	5 gal + trellis
Bush peas	5 gal

🍅 Fruiting Vegetables — The Big Producers

CROP	MIN. SIZE	NOTES
Cherry tomatoes	5 gal	Ideal: 10 gal; determinate varieties work best in smaller sizes
Slicing / beefsteak tomatoes	15 gal	Bigger = more forgiving; 20 gal ideal for full season
Peppers (sweet or hot)	5 gal	One plant per container; very productive in containers
Eggplant	5 gal	Ideal: 10 gal; needs warmth and full sun
Cucumbers	5 gal + trellis	Vertical growing essential; 2-3 plants per container
Summer squash / Zucchini	10 gal	One plant only; these get BIG