# Alternative Vegetable Gardening

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## Small-Scale Container Gardens - Bags, Boxes, Vertical Systems, etc.

**1.** **Lay-flat Bags**

Plastic or cloth mesh bags are filled with perlite, soil mix, or compost.

**Perlite Grow Bag System**
CropKing, Inc. (Cost: .74/each)
http://www.cropking.com/

**Garden Soxx™**
http://www.gardensoxx.com
(Cost: $100 for 100' of unfilled mesh;
$25 for 3' filled with compost)

**2.** **Earthbox**
http://www.earthbox.com/
(Cost: $50 each)

**3.** **Home-made Self-Contained Watering System**
http://www.wisefarmer.com/growbox/(Cost: ~$20 - plastic storage bin(s) + soil, fertilizer and a large garbage bag.)

4. **Grow Bags:** Plastic, mesh or felt bags. Many types. Some have handles; some come pre-filled with media.



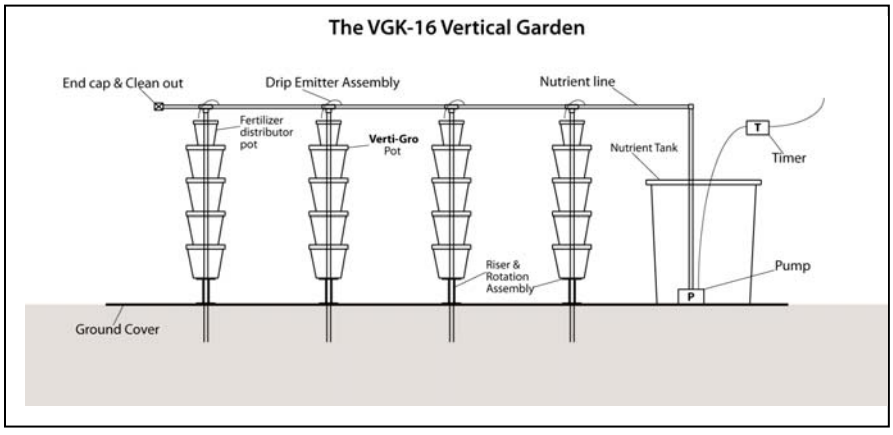
5. **Hanging Garden**

Home made - Cost: 5 gallon plastic paint bucket or metal bucket + soil.
Commercially sold planters (Cost: ~$10 + soil)



6. **Vertical Growing Systems** - Numerous commercial products available.

**Verti-Gro System** - http://vertigro.com/
Cost: VGK-16 = $319.00 delivered (other kits also available)




Additional vertical growing systems: http://www.hydrostacker.com/ , http://www.futuregrowing.com/ and others.

**Home-made Vertical System**
A vertical system constructed with one 8' 4x4 and recycled 2 liter soda bottles.
See: *Building a Low-Cost Vertical Soilless System for Production of Small Vegetable and Fruit Crops*[1]
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1186

See also: *Minigardening (Growing Vegetables in Containers)*
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH032

## Large-Scale Containers

1. **Raised Wooden Bed**
   http://www.ahta.org/documents/AHTA_Raised_Bed_Instructions.pdf
   (Cost: ~$55.00

2. **Easy Garden Box:** Steel and vinyl construction; Assembles in minutes with no tools. (Cost: 4x4 =$199; 4x8=$299).
   http://www.easygardenbox.com/

3. **Corner Brackets:** For easy raised bed construction. Many types/many sources. For example:
   http://www.gardeners.com/
   6" – 12" ($19 - $25/pair)

4. **Straw/Hay Bale Garden**
http://www.nicholsgardennursery.com/strawbales.htm
Hay bales are used to form the outside walls of the raised bed and then filled with soil. (Cost: $6/bale + potting soil)

## Hydroponic Systems

1. **Potato Box** - This requires a storage container at least 10" deep, perlite, liquid fertilizer, and certified seed potatoes or grocery potatoes. Other types of vegetables can be grown as well. See website below for details on how to set up a potato box. (Cost: ~$15; bin + perlite)
http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nleafmarchapril.09.pdf

2. **Floating Gardens.** A sheet of 1 ½ - 2" Styrofoam is floated on a nutrient solution of liquid fertilizer and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts). Holes are drilled into the Styrofoam to hold cups. Vegetables like lettuce, basil and others are grown in the cups with their roots partially submerged in the nutrients. (Cost: Varies with container used. 4 x 8 wood frame version = ~$50).

See: *Building a Floating Hydroponic Garden* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS18400.pdf
How to video:
http://vfd.ifas.ufl.edu/suwanneevalley/hydroponicgreenhouse/building_a_floating_hydroponic_garden.shtml

See also: *Grow Your Own Vegetables Without Soil* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH030

**DISCLAIMER: Many other products exist. Mention of a company's name and/or /product is not intended to be an endorsement or a preference over other products.**