

Container Gardening: Vegetable Support

When choosing vegetable plants, find out from the seed catalog if they will need support (or help to stand up straight). Some cultivars of each of the plants listed below should be supported. A cultivar is a “cultivated variety” and its name is given in catalogs. Write the name of a vining cultivar of each plant that needs support. Then write the name of a bush cultivar that does not need support.

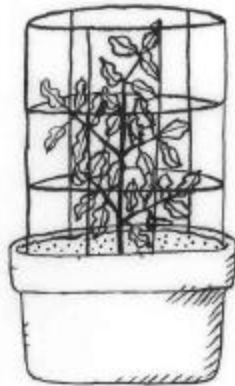
<u>Plant type</u>	<u>Vining Cultivar</u>	<u>Bush Cultivar</u>
Tomatoes	_____	_____
Peas	_____	_____
Cucumbers	_____	_____
Melons	_____	_____
Beans	_____	_____
Winter squashes	_____	_____

You can have your plants climb the railing, trellis, or fence on your porch, or you can use other ways to help them stand up. Climbing plants that are given support have less disease and produce more food or flowers.

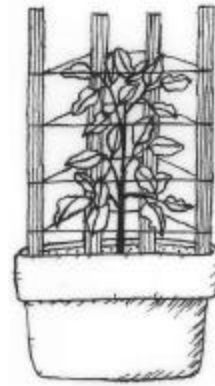
Here are some ideas used for tomatoes and other climbing plants:



Staking: plant is tied to a wooden or metal stake and pruned.



Wire cages: Fencing with at least 6" mesh is rolled into a cage.



Cage: made with stakes and string or wire.

Can you think of other things plants could grow on?

Container plants that you are growing for their flowers or their fruit should be **kept** in full sunlight (at least 8 hours per day) if possible. You can get by with some shade for leafy plants like lettuce and spinach.