

# **DIG IT GARDENS**

ASURA Container Gardening Seminar

# Container Garden Considerations

- ▶ Sun Exposure
- ▶ Container Selection
- ▶ Soil Blend
- ▶ Plant Selection
- ▶ Water

# Sun Exposure

- ▶ **First things first, What is the orientation of your space?**
- ▶ East – An ideal exposure as you will always get the morning sun
- ▶ South – Plenty of "winter" sun, adjust water as sun moves
- ▶ West – Sun at the hottest part of the day, soil blend and watering are crucial
- ▶ North – Summer sun all day and shade in the winter months...good luck!

# Container Selection

## ▶ **Material Composition**

- ▶ Terra Cotta – Porous material, but limited style and color selection
- ▶ Concrete – High end custom options available, can be dyed or painted
- ▶ Ceramic – Endless style and color selection, but can retain heat and moisture
- ▶ Fiberglass/Clay Fiber – Lightweight, Lots of style and color options, Not proven to hold up in the heat

## ▶ **Size**

- ▶ Large – Soil Blend is crucial as drainage can become an issue
- ▶ Small – Dry out quickly

# Soil

## ▶ Drainage

drain-age

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*noun*

the action or process of draining something.

"the pot must have holes in the base for good drainage"

## ▶ Potting Soil, Cactus Mix and other amendments

▶ Perlite

▶ Pumice

▶ Coco coir

## ▶ Fertilizer

▶ Dr. Earth Products

▶ Once a month from March - October

# Soil Blends & Amendments

Potting Soil



Cactus Mix



Perlite



Pumice



# Plant Selection

## ▶ **Edible**

- ▶ Mediterranean Herbs - Basil, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme
- ▶ Dwarf Citrus & Fruit Varieties - Bonanza Peach, Mexican Lime

## ▶ **Flowering**

- ▶ Annual or Perennial?
- ▶ Native or Desert Adapted?

## ▶ **Succulents** - All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti

- ▶ Haworthia & Gasteria Varieties
- ▶ Aloe varieties
- ▶ Mammillaria varieties

## ▶ **Heavy Shade**

- ▶ Sansevieria varieties

# Water

## ▶ **Drainage**

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## ▶ **Timing**

- ▶ Early Morning is ideal as It allows for evaporation to occur
- ▶ Avoid nighttime watering

## ▶ **Frequency**

- ▶ No perfect answer, but it will change throughout the year