

Tiny Secret Gardens

YOUR FREE STARTER GUIDE

# The Tiny Garden Starter Guide

Everything a beginner needs to grow something beautiful —  
even with just a windowsill, a balcony, or one sunny corner.

Big beauty in small spaces · [tinysecretgarden.com](https://tinysecretgarden.com)

START HERE

# Your First Tiny Garden in 5 Steps

No green thumb required — just follow these in order.

1

## Find your light

Watch your space for a day. Six or more hours of sun = full sun. A few hours = part shade. A bright room with no direct sun = indoor light. This one thing decides what will thrive.

2

## Pick the right pot

Any container works if it has drainage holes. No holes means drilled holes or a different pot. Bigger pots dry out slower and forgive busy weeks — perfect for beginners.

3

## Use good soil

Skip garden dirt in pots. Grab a bag of potting mix — it is light, drains well, and gives roots room to breathe. Fill to about 2cm below the rim.

4

## Choose forgiving plants

Start with two or three of the beginner-friendly picks on the next page. Plant them, water them in, and place them in their matching light spot.

5

## Water by checking, not guessing

Poke a finger 2cm into the soil. Dry? Water until it runs out the bottom. Still damp? Wait a day. Overwatering kills more tiny gardens than anything else.

## EASY WINS

# 10 Plants That Are Hard to Kill

Beginner-proof picks for small spaces.

| PLANT         | BEST SPOT       | LIGHT      | WATER       |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Pothos        | Shelf / hanging | Indoor     | When dry    |
| Snake plant   | Corner / desk   | Indoor     | Every 2 wks |
| Basil         | Kitchen sill    | Full sun   | Keep moist  |
| Mint          | Windowsill      | Part shade | Keep moist  |
| Cherry tomato | Balcony pot     | Full sun   | Daily-ish   |
| Succulents    | Bright sill     | Full sun   | Sparingly   |
| Petunias      | Railing planter | Full sun   | 2-3x / wk   |
| Lettuce       | Shallow tray    | Part shade | Keep moist  |
| Spider plant  | Hanging pot     | Indoor     | When dry    |
| Marigold      | Patio pot       | Full sun   | 2-3x / wk   |

## Want color?

Start with petunias, marigolds and a trailing flower for instant balcony cheer.

## Want food?

Basil, mint, lettuce and cherry tomatoes give you a real harvest from a few pots.

KEEP IT ALIVE

# The Quick Care Cheat Sheet

Pin this near your plants. It is almost everything you need.

## Light, decoded

- Full sun — 6+ hrs direct
- Part shade — 3-5 hrs
- Indoor — bright, no direct
- Reaching / pale leaves? More light.
- Scorched edges? Less direct sun.

## Watering, simplified

- Finger test before every water
- Water the soil, not the leaves
- Until it drains out the bottom
- Mornings are best
- Drooping + wet soil = too much

## Monthly 10-minute tidy

- Pinch off dead leaves & flowers
- Turn pots a quarter turn
- Feed with a little liquid fertilizer
- Check under leaves for pests

## Beginner mistakes to skip

- Pots with no drainage
- Watering on a fixed schedule
- Too much sun for shade plants
- Starting with fussy plants

GET INSPIRED

# 7 Tiny Garden Ideas to Try

Small projects, big charm.

## 1. The teacup fairy garden

A vintage cup, a little soil, one tiny succulent and a pebble path. Magic in minutes.

## 2. The herb sill trio

Basil, mint and parsley in matching pots by the kitchen window — pretty and useful.

## 3. The balcony flower box

One railing planter of trailing petunias turns any rail into a wall of color.

## 4. The hanging jungle corner

Pothos and a spider plant in macrame hangers fill an empty corner with green.

## 5. The salad bowl

A wide shallow pot of cut-and-come-again lettuce on the patio.

## 6. The windowsill succulent line

Three little succulents in a row — the easiest green there is.

## 7. The scented doorway pot

Lavender or mint by the door for a fresh welcome every time.

## You have everything you need

Come share your tiny garden with our community and find more easy ideas, plant guides and inspiration.

[tinysecretgarden.com](https://tinysecretgarden.com)