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**UNDER
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dream it,
DO IT 38 FRESH UPDATES,
INSIDE + OUT

THIS WEEKEND!
**FRONT
DOOR
MAKEOVER**
—
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**PLANT A VERTICAL
VEGGIE GARDEN**

**DECLUTTER
YOUR GARAGE**

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BHG SPECIALS

BOX *springs*



Go vertical—and delicious! Check out
our clever containers for edible plants.

PROJECTS **SCOTT J. JOHNSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARTY BALDWIN**
WORDS **WENDY GRAY**

STACK 'EM UP This tower of plants might look complex, but it's actually made up of premade crates stacked on top of one another, *opposite*. Purchase your crates, secure them together with vertical side pieces and connectors, and stain to make your own wall of edible plants.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES IN GALVANIZED HARDWARE: ZINC-COATED AND HOT-DIPPED. ZINC-COATED (LEFT) WILL RUST EVENTUALLY; HOT-DIPPED (RIGHT) IS PRICIER BUT WILL HOLD UP LONGER. WE PLACED OUR BOLTS IN A CRISP X PATTERN FOR DESIGN PUNCH.



ITALIAN FLAIR Consider themes for your container gardens. These crates are filled with the makings of a tasty Italian dish. We included rosemary, cherry tomatoes, miniature eggplant, and several leafy herbs perfect for sauces. Curly (versus flat-leaf) parsley billows over the edge, *above*.



MAKE IT

CRATE PLANTER

MATERIALS

- Three 8-foot 1x4 cedar boards for vertical side pieces
- Chop saw
- Eight 18x12½x9½-inch wood crates
- Drill
- Thirty ⅝x2-inch galvanized hex bolts
- Thirty ⅝-inch galvanized washers
- Thirty ⅝-inch galvanized nuts
- Twenty-four 2½-inch galvanized deck screws
- 6-foot 1x4 cedar board for center in-box connectors
- Teak oil stain
- 3x50-foot roll of brown landscaping fabric
- ¼-inch staples and staple gun

Step 1 Cut 8-foot boards in half to create six 4-foot vertical side pieces. Place three crates on the ground with a handle side up and all opening in the same direction. Position three pieces of 4-foot cedar atop them, aligning the top of the first

crate and the bottom of the third crate with the ends of the boards. Center the middle crate between the other two.


Step 2 Drill five holes per box for hex bolts in an X pattern, *above*. Attach cedar to crates with hex bolts, washers, and nuts. Repeat with three more crates for the unit's other side.

Step 3 Stand each side up vertically. Cut 6-foot cedar into eight 9-inch connectors. Place one remaining crate between outside bottom crates with a 3-inch overlap.

Step 4 Drill holes, then screw 9-inch connectors through the center crate bottom into vertical side pieces of the outside boxes (A). Screw connectors through outside boxes into vertical side pieces of center crate. Repeat for second center crate.

Step 5 Stain all boxes. When dry, cut landscape fabric into eight 30x24-inch rectangles. Line crates with fabric and staple in place. Tip: The technique is like wrapping a gift but on the inside. Fill with potting soil and plants.

GET PACKING To make the most of your vertical garden, load it! Many vertical gardens are too small or sparsely planted to be practical. Here you see cucumbers, purple basil, lavender, chamomile, and celery on top, *this photo*. Next are lemon balm, cucumbers, marigolds, and nasturtium. Below that we planted dill, parsley, thyme, and oregano. Note: The hinges are purely for decoration, elevating the look of the entire unit.



PARTY THYME This vertical garden has a cocktail theme. We used popular drink ingredients for festive appeal. The celery and cucumbers work in a bloody mary; lemon balm adds tart punctuation to your beverages; and edible flowers can be uncommon garnishes. Experiment with herbs like basil and thyme muddled into your creations to set your next cocktail party apart from the ordinary.



MAKE IT

STACKED PILLAR PLANTER

MATERIALS

- Eight 8-foot red cedar decking planks
- Saw
- Bar clamps
- Twelve 8½-inch corner cleats (for vertical interior)
- Drill/driver
- 1½-inch galvanized deck screws
- Outdoor-grade plywood
- 1¾-inch hole saw
- Six 16-inch cleats (for bottom supports)
- Six 14½-inch cleats (for bottom supports)
- Four 1⅝-inch-diameter 6-foot metal line fence posts
- Hacksaw
- Twelve 1⅝-inch line post female hinges
- Twelve ⅝x3-inch galvanized hex bolts
- Twelve ⅝-inch galvanized nuts
- Twelve ⅝-inch galvanized washers
- Twelve 3½x3½-inch interior door satin-nickel hinges

Step 1 Cut cedar decking to lengths in cut list, below. Position two 18-inch and two 16-inch decking pieces to form a nearly square box. Hold together with bar clamps. Place 8½-inch cleat in an interior corner about 2 inches from bottom of the decking pieces, and screw cleat into decking with four 1½-inch screws. Repeat in three other corners.

Step 2 Add a second row of decking, with alternating corners overlapping (A). Screw cleats to decking boards with four 1½-inch screws.

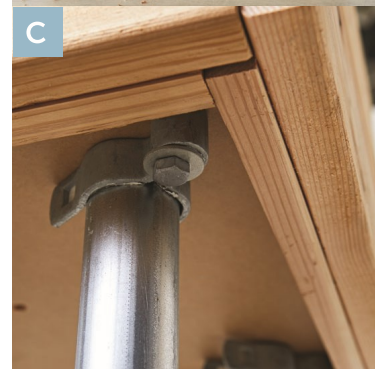
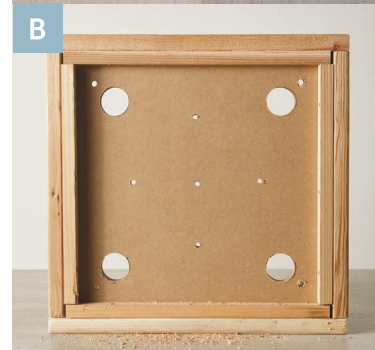
Step 3 Cut four 1¾-inch post holes in plywood bottoms 2 inches in from the corners with a hole saw. Drill four ½-inch holes for hinge support bolts outside of the post holes in the corners. Drill five ¼-inch drainage holes, making a plus-sign pattern in the center.

Step 4 Position plywood bottom so it rests on corner cleats and screw the 16-inch and 14½-inch cleats into place to secure plywood (B). Repeat for two more boxes.

Step 5 Cut fence posts with hacksaw to 60 inches long. Put a post female hinge piece on each post 6 inches from bottom. You may have to use a hammer or mallet to snap them in place.

Step 6 Slide one box onto the posts so it rests atop the hinges and secure with hex bolts, nuts, and washers (C).

Step 7 Place hinge pieces at 28 inches for middle box. Slide box onto posts and secure with hex bolts. Place hinge pieces at 51 inches, slide on top box (D), and secure with hex bolts. Center decorative hinges in each box corner. Fill boxes with potting soil and plant.



CUT LIST

#	PART	USE	SIZE
4	CHAIN LINK FENCE POSTS	POST SUPPORT	60"
12	CEDAR DECKING PLANKS	BOX WALLS	18"
12	CEDAR DECKING PLANKS	BOX WALLS	16"
3	PLYWOOD	BOX BOTTOMS	15⅞x15⅞"
12	1-INCH SQUARE DOWEL	CORNER CLEATS	8½"
6	1-INCH SQUARE DOWEL	BOTTOM CLEATS	14½"
6	1-INCH SQUARE DOWEL	BOTTOM CLEATS	16"

MAKE IT

HANGING HERB BOXES

MATERIALS

- Two 30×8×8-inch teak window boxes
- Drill
- Twelve 5/16-inch screw pin shackles
- Twelve 1/4-inch quick links
- Four 4 15/16-inch ceiling hooks
- 20 feet of 5/8-inch zinc-coated coil straight chain
- Bolt cutter

Step 1 Drill four 3/8-inch holes in both boxes 5 inches from each outside edge and 1 inch from top edge.

Step 2 On the top box, drill four 3/8-inch holes 5 inches from each outside edge and 1 inch from bottom edge.

Step 3 On the underside of the top box, drill four 1-inch holes 5 inches in from each outside edge and a half-inch in from the side edge to anchor the shackles.

Step 4 Install screw pin shackles and attach quick links to the shackles. Attach ceiling hooks with 20 inches between the two pairs. (Distance between hooks will depend on your beam but should be no more than 8 inches.)

Step 5 Using a bolt cutter, cut the chain to your desired length; four chains for the ceiling to the top box, four for the top box to the lower box.

Step 6 Hang your first four pieces of chain from the ceiling hooks (A) and attach to the top box's quick links. Hang the second four pieces of chain from the top box's bottom quick links (B) and attach them to the bottom box quick links.

Step 7 Fill with potting soil and plant.



TRUE COLORS This isn't your average basil. Contrasting markings on the leaves add visual interest. Whenever possible, choose variegated herbs for design consideration. Here we have tarragon, golden leaf sage, curly parsley, rosemary, spicy globe basil, blue sage, purple basil, and thyme up top. Below are parsley, lemon balm, purple basil, variegated oregano, sage, and Greek oregano.



WE AFFIXED SHACKLE HOOKS TO THE TOP BOX TO HOLD THE CHAIN FOR THE LOWER BOX. QUICK LINKS PROVIDE A HANDY AND STRONG ATTACHMENT TO MARRY CHAIN AND SHACKLE.

GARDEN VIEW When you don't have dedicated land for traditional gardening—or even if you do and just want to take a different approach—well-designed planter boxes can be as beautiful as they are functional, *opposite*. This hanging version is porch-perfect, giving city dwellers the option to always have fresh herbs on hand.



DO IT BETTER

THE WATERING NEEDS MAY VARY BETWEEN THE TWO BOXES. THE LOWER BOX MAY RECEIVE SOME RUNOFF WATER FROM THE TOP ONE. ALSO, THE AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT MAY VARY BETWEEN THE TWO BOXES.