



# Halton Region Master Gardeners

*Serving the communities of Burlington, Hamilton, Milton & Oakville*

---

## Balcony & Patio Garden Tips

*Master Gardener Question: What are some tips for balcony and patio gardening?*

While space is often the challenge with balcony and patio gardening, the right choice of plants and the right care can result in a lush outdoor haven that lasts well into the fall.

- Choose plants appropriate for the conditions. For sun, try geraniums, snapdragons, petunias, verbena, and salvia. In shade, use impatiens (look for the double varieties), coleus, browallia, fuschia, begonia, and mimulus.
- Use foliage interest such as the variegated leaves of Swedish Ivy, the silvery grey of Dusty Miller or the chartreuse or burgundy of different varieties of Sweet Potato Vine.
- On balconies or exposed decks or patios, consider the wind factor and look for wind-resistant plants such as hop vine.



- Make use of all your space and garden vertically with vines on trellises or obelisks. Tropical choices such as Mandevilla and Passion Flower will add drama. You can keep them for years by bringing them inside for the winter. Morning glories can provide quick coverage for a cover, a screen, or trellis.
- Vegetables add colour and interest to a balcony or patio and offer a tasty reward as well. Try cherry tomatoes or runner beans on a screen or teepee trellis. A window box or container devoted to just fragrant herbs will make sitting out all the more enjoyable.