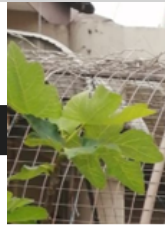




The Right Pot for Your Plant!



It would be a blessing to have ample room in our backyard or the front compound for all our plants to be planted on the ground. They can grow on wide, rich garden beds. Well, though we can do this, planting in pots still adds artistic touch to the garden and our surroundings. The combination of both may work better in most home gardens. With the advent of technologies and ease of getting ourselves all the garden needs at just one click in the comfort of our home, we may still be puzzled on which the right ones are. In this issue, we will see some tips on choosing the right pot for our plant. Let us start with the basic

and the most important aspect of choosing a pot. Pot with drainage holes is required to ensure you can grow a healthy plant. Now, we may wonder if one single drainage hole is enough for a pot. It is not a problem to get a pot with a single drainage hole in the middle or one with more drainage holes if the hole works well to drain excessive water from the pot. Secondly, it is important for us to ensure we buy the right pot size for our plant. The basic rule is that we must get a pot that is an inch to 4 inches wider than the diameter of the plant's root mass (as shown in the picture below).

What size would fit which type of plant? A 10-inch pot is usually suitable for succulents and herbs and small plants like strawberries and mints. A 14-inch pot works well for kale or spinach while an 18-inch can fit larger vegetables like tomatoes or eggplants. A 24-inch can handle bigger house plants with slightly more extensive roots like berries and dwarf peach trees while a massive size of 30-inch pot can serve as a permanent home to house plum, apple and pear trees if proper fertilization is done. Apart from the width of the pot, the depth is also equally important. The depth too provides the sufficient space for the roots to grow. A 6-8 inches in depth pot is sufficient to grow most leafy vegetables. Root vegetables like ginger and radish may need between 8-14 inches deep to allow room for

the rhizome and bulbs to grow. In addition, fruiting vegetables like chillies, tomatoes and beans require a 12-16 inches deep pot. The third important thing to look out for when choosing a pot is the material it is made of. Most people prefer plastic pots these days as they are cheap and light which makes them easier to handle. Plastic pots are more suitable for indoor plants than outdoor. Plastic pots come in different colors, but many prefer white or black ones. White pots are good as they reflect heat and thus, save the root of the plant. Black pot on the other hand is known to be good at absorbing heat and this may damage the plant's root. Some thin plastics are also easy to photodegrade although plastics do not biodegrade. This may cause it to fall apart when exposed to strong sunlight.



Terracotta pots are made of red clay. This material absorbs water from the plant and then dries out. This material is suitable for plants that require less water such as cactus and rosemary. If you still wish to use this material, ensure that you repeat watering especially during the dry season. Ceramic pots are sturdy and heavy, making them a preference for bigger plants. It is a bit pricey compared to the ones shared earlier. These pots are good at absorbing and holding on to moisture. This prevents the soil from drying fast. The fourth thing to be considered is whether we wish to hang the pot. Hanging baskets or pots usually dry faster because their drainage is more efficient. Consider watering more frequently when the condition is dry and choose lighter plants as it will increase the weight of the basket or pot. It is hoped that the information shared in this issue is helpful to you when deciding on purchasing a pot for your plant. We will discuss more on caring for the pot plants in the next round, insyaAllah.

The example of a pot that is 2 inches wider than the diameter of the root mass of the plant.

