



GROW YOUR OWN WITH

EMMERDALE

COURGETTES



Courgettes are quite big plants requiring about 1 square metre of growing space so use a suitably sized container at least 45cm wide x 45cm deep. Ensure adequate drainage by piercing holes in the bottom and covering with old broken pots, gravel or something similar to prevent the holes from becoming blocked.



Fill the container to within 10cm of its brim with a rich, warm, soil based compost incorporating plenty of organic matter. Take the courgette seed and place it centrally in the container. Cover with 2.5cm of compost and water-in well.



Place the container in a sunny, well ventilated site. If necessary, keep the seed and emerging seedling warm and protected by placing a removable clear covering such as glass, perspex or polythene sheet over the container.



Keep the contents 'just-moist' by watering consistently and regularly at soil level. Avoid over-wetting the foliage and fruit which might otherwise encourage mildew. Young plants can be mulched with a layer of pine bark to help retain moisture and suppress any weed growth. Feed at fortnightly intervals during the flowering and fruiting period, with an organic high potash fertiliser such as liquid seaweed or tomato food (follow manufacturer's instructions).



Harvest courgettes when they are 4-10cm long by cutting through the stem with a sharp knife or sharply twisting the stalk. Regularly picking the fruit will encourage further production over a longer period. Towards the end of the season 1 or 2 fruits can be left to grow into marrows and harvested when over 15cm long.