

EarthBox® Gardening Tips

PLANT SELECTION Try everything, vegetables, herbs and flowers! Whatever is available at your local nursery will grow in your EarthBox®. Use the smaller 5-7" tall seedlings available in 2" pots, or start with seeds. Your County Cooperative Extension Agency (in the phone book) can recommend the best varieties for your area and season along with providing pest and pollination information.

POTTING MIX Do not confuse potting soil which contains rock with **potting mix** that does not include rock. Almost any brand of **potting mix** for containers or hanging plants will work. You'll need the big bag—2 cubic feet or about 60 quarts per box. The **potting mix** can be used 5-6 seasons before replacing.

FERTILIZER The EarthBox® is designed to be used with a strip of common dry granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables. Almost any brand of fertilizer will work as long as it is not designed to be mixed with water and all 3 numbers on the label are between 5 and 15. You'll need two cups of fertilizer for each planting. Organic fertilizers can also be used. Simply use 3 cups of organic fertilizer to replace the 2 cups of chemical fertilizer. Do not add any additional fertilizer during the growing season.

PLANTING Refer to the "Plant Selection Chart" and the "Fertilizer & Plant Placement Pattern Chart" located in these instructions. Resist the temptation to overplant your EarthBox®. Select a sunny spot, as most warm season crops, such as tomatoes, need 6-8 hours of daily sunlight. Cool season leafy vegetables such as spinach and lettuce require partial shade. The plants should always be planted through the plastic cover into the **potting mix**. Always leave the cover on. Gently loosen the plant's root ball and set your plants into the soil as far away from the fertilizer strip as possible.

WATERING Allowing the reservoir to go dry will shut down the system, so don't try to regulate the water level. Always use the fill tube to keep the water reservoir filled. You'll know the reservoir is full when water flows from the overflow hole. Add water every few days when the plants are young, and every day when your plants are mature. You can purchase the EarthBox® Automated Watering System and your boxes will take care of themselves. Go to earthbox.com for more information.

STAKES Tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, beans and other vines or tall plants need support. The EarthBox® Staking Kit (not included) is the perfect solution for your plant staking problem. Install the staking system and string the netting between the vertical stakes to provide the support your plants need.

REPLANTING AND WINTERIZING At the end of the growing season remove the old plants, the cover, and dig out and discard the fertilizer strip. Drain the reservoir by tipping the EarthBox® to avoid frozen water in the system. Cover the box with a new cover until you are ready to plant again. To replant add additional **potting mix** if necessary, creating a mound, and then continue with Steps 5-8 of the instructions.

FOR TOMATOES AND VEGETABLES Most vegetables require a higher pH level than most **potting mixes** provide, and they love Calcium! To prevent blossom end rot, simply add 2 cups of dolomite or hydrated lime to the **potting mix** before each planting. Remember to keep the reservoir filled. Letting the system go dry stops the intake of Calcium and fertilizer to the plants. If Blossom End Rot develops during the season, mix 1/4 cup of hydrated lime to a gallon of water. Spray the mix directly on the plants or add it to the water reservoir the next time you water your EarthBox®.

CASTER SOCKET The EarthBox® will accept standard casters with a 3/8" diameter x 1" length stem.

THREE SIMPLE RULES

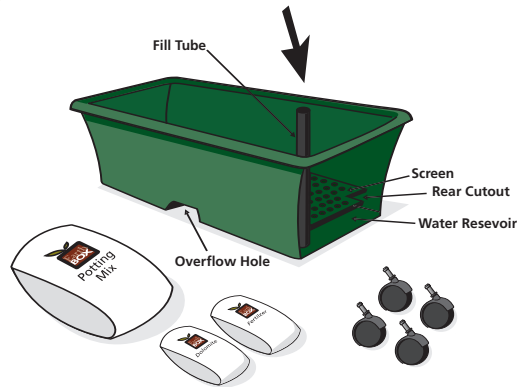
1. Always keep the cover over the potting mix and fertilizer.
2. Always keep the reservoir full.
3. Place the fertilizer on top of the potting mix and don't use water-soluble fertilizers.

FOR MORE TIPS OR TO JOIN THE FORUM, GO TO: www.earthbox.com

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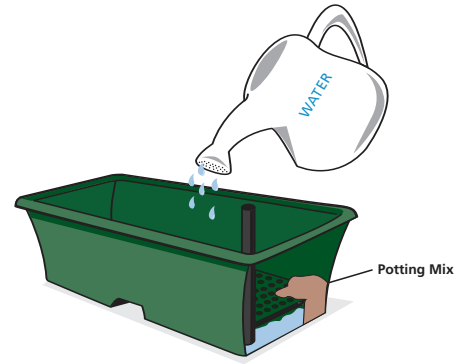
EarthBox® Planting Instructions

1 GETTING STARTED



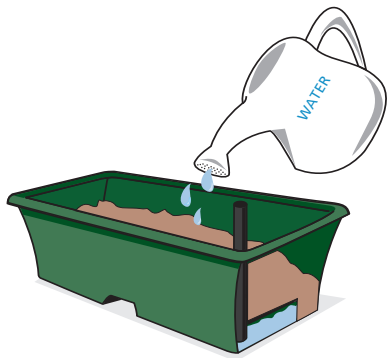
Inside the EarthBox® you'll find a plastic screen and a small bag of accessories. Make sure the plastic screen is set firmly in the bottom of the box. Remove the fill tube from the accessory bag and press it through the round cutout in the front corner of the screen. Insert casters into the bottom of the box (optional). To determine the proper number of seedlings, please refer to the Plant Selection Chart on the last page.

2 SETTING UP THE BOX



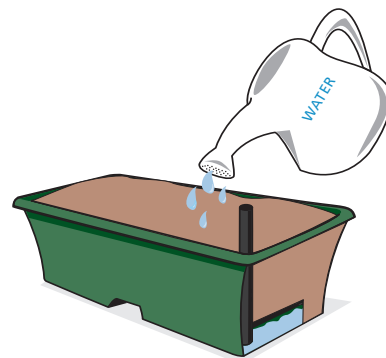
Put your EarthBox® in a spot where it will get 6 to 8 hours of sun per day. Pack the two rear corner cutouts in the screen with moist **potting mix** (not potting soil). Pour water through the fill tube until it runs out the overflow hole. This is the way you will water your plants after planting. With the overflow hole you can never over water, so always keep the reservoir filled.

3 STARTING THE POTTING MIX



Continue adding moist **potting mix** on top of the screen until the EarthBox® is half full. It's OK for some of the mix to fall through the screen. Sprinkle the **potting mix** with water and gently pat it down, especially above the two rear corner cutouts you filled first.

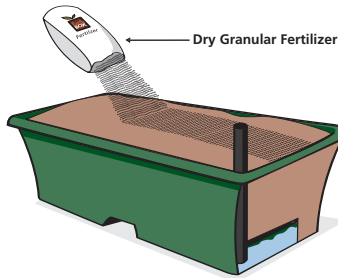
4 FINISHING THE POTTING MIX



Fill the EarthBox® COMPLETELY TO THE TOP with **potting mix**. Do not leave a space along the sides. Again sprinkle well with water and smooth the soil to the top edges. FOR VEGETABLES AND TOMATOES, MIX TWO CUPS OF DOLOMITE OR HYDRATED LIME into the top 3-4 inches of **potting mix** and re-smooth.

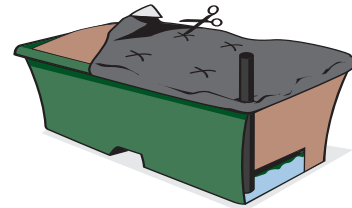
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5 ADD DRY FERTILIZER



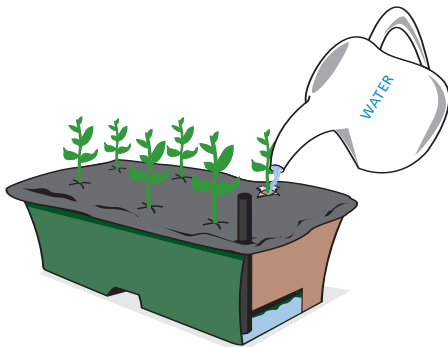
Depending on the number of seedlings, choose a **FERTILIZER AND PLANT PLACEMENT PATTERN** on the last page. Using **potting mix**, create a slight mound where you will place the fertilizer strip. Create a small trough in the mound and then pour 2 cups of dry fertilizer or 3 cups of organic fertilizer in a strip in the trough. Gently cover the fertilizer strip with moist **potting mix**, and pat down. **DO NOT MIX THE FERTILIZER INTO THE POTTING MIX OR SPREAD IT AROUND.** Do not use fertilizer that requires mixing with water, such as Miracle-Gro™ or other water-soluble brands.

6 COVER, SECURE & CUT



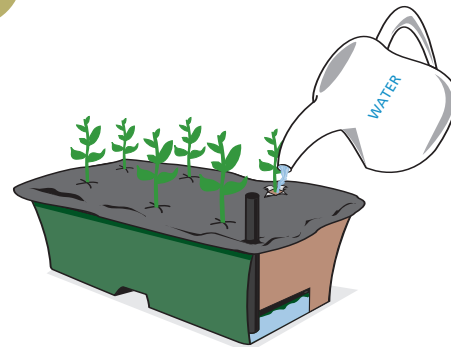
Included in the accessory bag are 2 fitted plastic covers, one as an extra. Both are equipped with a black side and a white side. Keep the **BLACK SIDE UP**, except in desert climates or Florida summers – where the white side should face up. Align one of the round cutout holes over the fill tube and carefully stretch the cover over the top of the EarthBox®. When the cover is secure, cut a 3-inch “X” in the cover for each plant, **AS FAR AWAY FROM THE FERTILIZER STRIP AS POSSIBLE.** Never cut holes in the cover above the fertilizer strip.

7 PLANT YOUR GARDEN



Through the newly cut “X’s” in the cover dig 2 to 3-inch-deep holes into the **potting mix**, just as you would in the ground. Place one plant per hole and firm the mix around the roots. **JUST THIS ONE TIME**, pull back the “X” flaps in the cover to water the plants from the top to remove any air spaces from around the roots. Then carefully put the flaps back around the stems and fill the reservoir through the fill tube. If your plants will need support, we recommend that you purchase the optional EarthBox® Staking System.

8 GROWING & REPLANTING



At this time, your EarthBox® has all the fertilizer it needs for one complete growing season. Be sure the EarthBox® is in a location where it will receive 6-8 hours of sunlight a day. Always keep the cover on and keep the reservoir full by adding water through the fill tube until it runs out the overflow hole. To learn how to winterize, replant or for general gardening help, refer to the Gardening Tips section of this sheet or join our online forum at <http://forum.earthbox.com>. **Happy Gardening!**

EarthBox[®] Plant Selection Chart

Use this list to purchase the correct number of seedlings for the type of plants you wish to grow.

Artichokes (2 seedlings)

Beans (16 seedlings)

Bell Peppers (6 seedlings)

Broccoli (6 seedlings)

Brussels Sprouts (6 seedlings)

Cabbage (6 seedlings)

Cauliflower (6 seedlings)

Celery (6 seedlings)

Chard (6 seedlings)

Corn (16 seedlings)

Cucumbers (4 seedlings)

Eggplants (2 seedlings)

Flowers (8 seedlings)

Greens (6 seedlings)

Herbs (6 seedlings)

Hot Peppers (6 seedlings)

Kohlrabi (8 seedlings)

Leeks (8 seedlings)

Lettuce (8 seedlings)

Melons (4 seedlings)

Okra (8 seedlings)

Onions (10 seedlings)

Peas (16 seedlings)

Salad Greens (8 seedlings)

Spinach (10 seedlings)

Squash (4 seedlings)

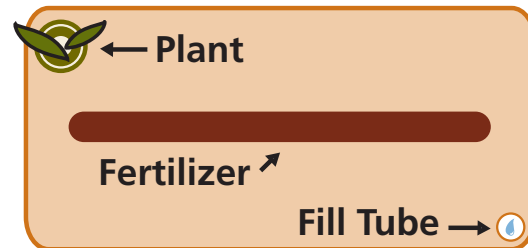
Strawberries (6 seedlings)

Tomatoes (2 seedlings)

EarthBox[®] Fertilizer & Plant Placement Patterns

Legend ▶

The patterns shown below illustrate the best placement of plants and fertilizer based on the suggested number of plants per variety as listed above.



Single Row ▶

(Number of seedlings needed)



(2 per row)



(4 per row)

Double Row ▶

(Number of seedlings needed)



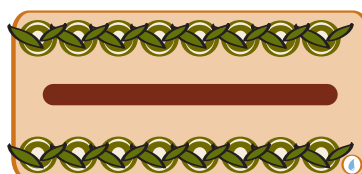
(3 per row)



(4 per row)



(5 per row)



(8 per row)