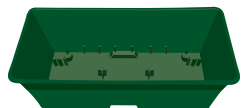




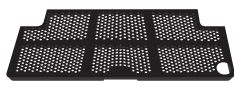
THE Original GARDENING SYSTEM

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Your Kit Includes:



EarthBox® Container



Aeration Screen



Fill Tube



2 - B/W Mulch Covers

Your Kit May Also Include:



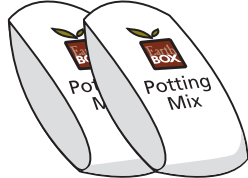
Casters



1 lb. Dolomite



1 lb. - Fertilizer (Standard 7-7-7 OR Natural 8-3-5)



2.0 cu. ft. Potting Mix

EarthBox.com | 800.4GARDEN

EARTHBOX® ACCESSORIES:

REPLANT KITS



STAKING SYSTEMS



AUTOMATIC WATERING



GARDEN STAND



CONSUMER CARE:

Mon. - Fri. 8:00a-4:30p EST
1.800.442.7336
customerservice@earthbox.com

CONNECT WITH US:

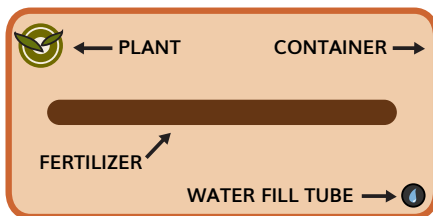


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PLANT & FERTILIZER PLACEMENT CHART

Below are the recommended types and number of plants to place in each EarthBox® gardening system. For best results, choose one type to grow per system. Refer to the EarthBox® blog for more information.

Legend:



Plants not listed below are not recommended for growing in the EarthBox® gardening system. This includes asparagus, potatoes, perennial flowers, fruit trees, and raspberries.



2 seedlings (2 per row)

Artichokes, Blackberries, Brussels Sprouts, Eggplants, Ground cherry/Husk cherry, Sunflowers: Mammoth, Summer Squash (Pattypan, Yellow Squash, Zucchini), Tomatillos, Tomatoes (all varieties)



4 seedlings (4 per row OR 2 per row)

Cucumbers, Gourds, Melons (Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Watermelon), Pumpkins, Winter Squash (Acorn, Butternut, Delicata, Spaghetti)



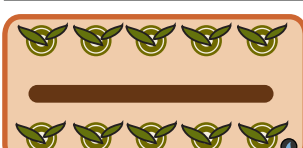
6 seedlings (3 per row)

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Greens (Collards, Mustard), Herbs: Woody (Basil, Lavender, Marjoram, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Tarragon, Thyme), Kale, Malabar Spinach, Peppers (Bell, Hot, Sweet), Rapini, Strawberries, Sunflowers: Dwarf



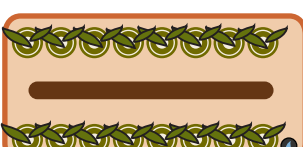
8 seedlings (4 per row)

Bok Choy, Endive, Escarole, Flowers: Annual (Impatiens, Petunias), Herbs: Soft (Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley), Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce (Romaine, Iceberg), Okra, Radicchio, Salad Greens (Arugula, Frisee, Mesclun, Watercress)



10-12 seedlings (5-6 per row)

Beets, Bush Beans (Green beans, Wax beans, Soy beans), Corn, Onions (Yellow, Red, White), Spinach, Turnips



14-16 seedlings (7-8 per row)

Carrots (Nantes & Chantenay varieties), Garlic, Green Onions, Peas/Pole Beans, Radishes, Shallots

GETTING STARTED

Before you begin planting, follow this instruction manual.

CHOOSE A LOCATION

Choose a level spot for your EarthBox® gardening system. Select a sunny area with 8 hours of sun for warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. Select a shaded area with partial sun for cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach, and peas.

GATHER COMPONENTS

The EarthBox® gardening system includes the basic parts required for the system to function. 2.0-2.5 cubic feet of peat-based growing medium, 1 lb. of dolomite, and 1-1½ lbs. of fertilizer are needed for planting, and may also be included with your system depending on your purchase. Additionally, you will need plants, scissors, and a water source.



Plants



Scissors



Water

PLANT SELECTION

Using the Placement Chart (left), determine what type and how many plants you need. Choose one type of plant per EarthBox® gardening system. Seedlings available in 2" pots are easiest to plant, but pots up to 6" can also be used. Directly sowing seeds should be done only with seeds that germinate quickly (cucumbers, squash, corn, beans, peas, lettuce). For best results, do not overcrowd the EarthBox® gardening system or try to grow crops that are not listed on the Placement Chart. To grow different crops in the same system, refer to the combination planting chart and instructions at EarthBox.com/blog.

GROWING MEDIA

Most growing media labeled for container gardening will work with the EarthBox® gardening system. You'll need 2.0-2.5 cubic feet (60-75 quarts) for each system. Choose a peat-based growing medium with perlite and/or vermiculite. Growing media with added fertilizer is suitable, but it does **NOT** replace the fertilizer application shown in Step 7; additional fertilizer is still required. **Do NOT use compost, coir-based growing media, or any media that contains rock, clay, sand, or topsoil in the EarthBox® gardening system.** Be sure to pre-moisten your growing medium a few days before setting up the EarthBox® gardening system. Using dry growing medium may result in air pockets that prevent proper water absorption, or can greatly delay getting water to plants.

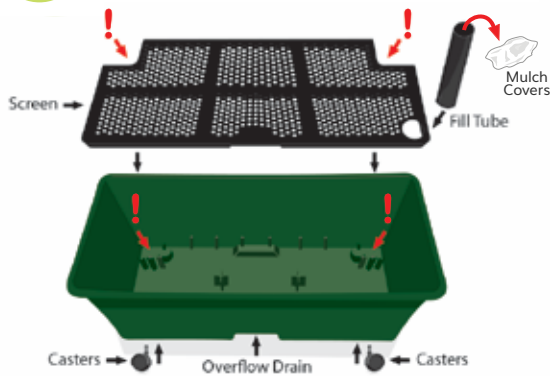
DOLOMITE

Dolomite is lime that contains calcium and magnesium—essential trace elements for growing most fruiting plants. It helps prevent Blossom End Rot (BER), a common disorder in tomatoes and pepper; and helps balance the pH of the growing media. Incorporate 1 lb. of dolomite during the initial planting, and each year after when replanting your EarthBox® gardening system. **Do NOT substitute dolomite with hydrated lime or agricultural lime.**

FERTILIZER / PLANT FOOD

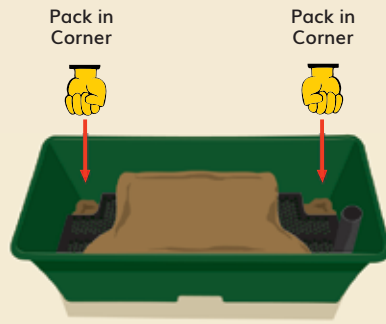
The EarthBox® gardening system is designed to be used with common dry granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables. Do **NOT** use water-soluble or time-release fertilizer. Each of the three N-P-K numbers on the label should be between 5 and 15—use a higher Phosphorus number (P) when growing fruiting plants (tomatoes, peppers, squash), and a higher Nitrogen (N) number when growing greens (herbs, spinach, lettuce). You can use synthetic fertilizer or organic/natural fertilizer. If using synthetic fertilizer, use 1 lb.; if using organic or natural fertilizer, use 1½ lbs.

1 Assemble Parts: Add Screen, Fill Tube & Casters* to Container



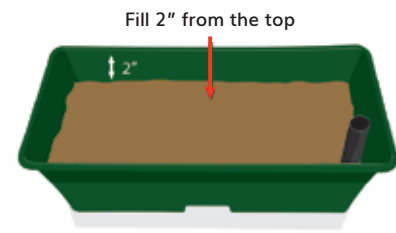
NOTE: Remove mulch covers from the fill tube first. Make sure the screen is firmly set, and the fill tube is placed through the large hole in the screen and pushed to the bottom of the container. *Adding casters is optional; if using the EarthBox® Staking System, add casters to that instead of the container.

2 Pack Corners Firmly with Moistened Growing Medium

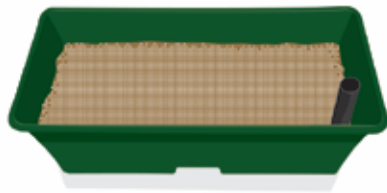


IMPORTANT! Packing the corners tightly with a peat-based pre-moistened growing medium will ensure proper wicking and water absorption throughout the system.

3 Add Layer of Pre-Moistened Growing Medium

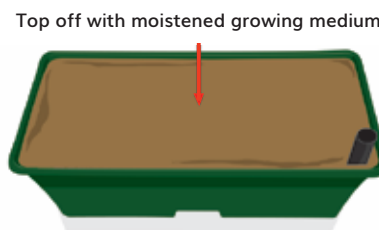


4 Incorporate Dolomite into Growing Medium

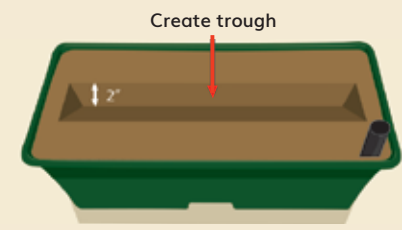


NOTE: Spread the dolomite evenly and mix into the growing medium.

5 Level Growing Medium with Top of EarthBox® Container

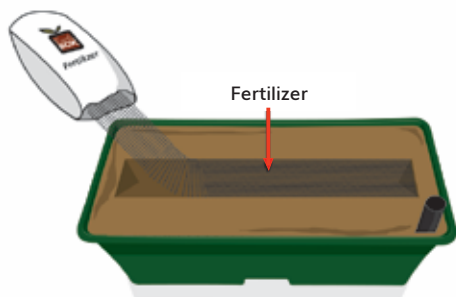


6 Create a Trough for Plant Food Placement



IMPORTANT! Refer to Placement Chart to determine location of fertilizer trough for the type of plants you will be growing.

7 Place Plant Food in Trough



NOTE: Use the entire contents of the bag. Use this even if your growing media already has added fertilizer.

8 Create a Mound with Remaining Growing Medium



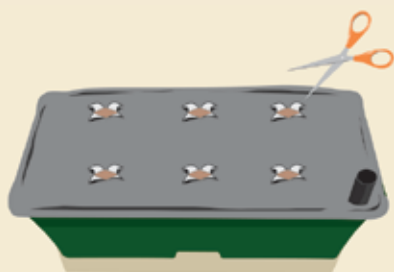
IMPORTANT! Overfill the system, creating a 4" - 6" mound of growing medium over the plant food.

9 Place Mulch Cover on the EarthBox® Container



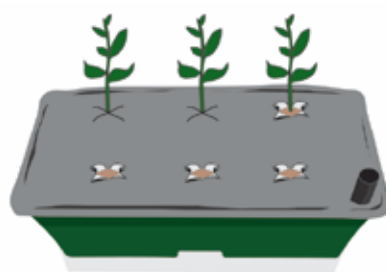
NOTE: Place the Mulch Cover with the black side up. If peak growing season temperatures in your area usually remain 85° F or warmer, place the cover with the white side facing up.

10 Cut Holes in the Mulch Cover



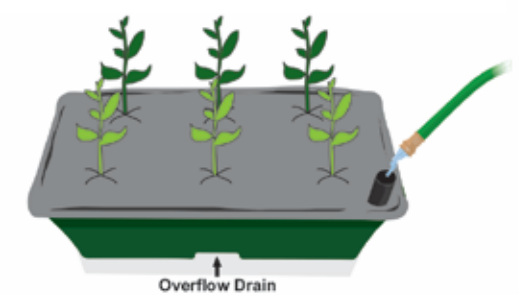
IMPORTANT! Refer to the Placement Chart to determine the number and location of plants to grow in the system. Cut holes in an "X" the same size as the root ball of your plant.

11 Plant Seeds or Seedlings



NOTE: Remove seedlings from their grower pot and plant into the EarthBox® gardening system. At this time ONLY, water around the base of each seedling to help prevent transplant shock.

12 Fill Reservoir and Water the EarthBox® System Regularly



NOTE: Use the fill tube to keep the water reservoir full. You'll know the reservoir is full when water flows from the overflow drain. Add water every few days when plants are young, and at least once every day when plants begin to mature. Mature plants may require water several times each day.

GARDENING INFORMATION

Learn how to prevent and treat this common plant disorder—don't let it ruin your garden!



BLOSSOM END ROT (BER)

Blossom End Rot is a common plant disorder that affects fruit, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and squash. Insufficient amounts of calcium and magnesium, rapid growth, or infrequent watering can all cause BER. Be sure to fill the water reservoir multiple times each day when growing tomatoes so the plants always have water. If you notice the bottom of fruit turning brown and eventually black, your plants have BER and the fruit must be picked and discarded. The disorder may continue if left untreated. To learn how to prevent and treat Blossom End Rot, visit the EarthBox® blog.

NEED MORE HELP?

For more information about growing tomatoes, combining crops, and more—check out the EarthBox® blog at: EarthBox.com/blog

