Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart

Below are the recommended number of plants to place in each EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system.

**Planting Legend:**

- **Plant**
- **Fertilizer**
- **Water Fill Tube**

**IMPORTANT!** Use this chart on steps 6 and 10.

3 Seedlings:
- Broccoli
- Bush Beans
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Chard
- Collard Greens
- Herbs
- Kohlrabi
- Peppers
- Strawberries

4 Seedlings:
- Arugula
- Celery
- Flowers
- Kale
- Head Lettuce
- Radicchio
- Salad Greens
- Spinach

**BEGIN HERE** Important Information About Planting

Determine what type and how many plants you need, using the Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart. Have ready an EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system, a 1 cubic foot bag of growing media (see below), a water source (minimum of 2 or 3 gallons), a knife or scissors, dolomite (1), and fertilizer (2). Choose a location for your EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system. Select a sunny spot with a minimum of 8 hours of daily sunshine for warm season crops such as peppers or eggplant; select partial shade for cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach, or arugula. If growing indoors, be sure to place your EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system in a sunroom or windowsill that gets full sun, or place it under a full-spectrum grow light.

**GROWING MEDIA**

Almost any brand of growing media designated for containers or hanging plants will work. It should be peat-based, and contain perlite and/ or vermiculite. You’ll need 1 cubic foot (30 dry quarts) per EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system. Much of today’s growing media has a water-soluble or time-release fertilizer added; this is okay to use, but it does NOT replace the fertilizer application (shown in Step 7). **Do NOT use compost or growing media that contains rock, clay, sand, or topsoil in the EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system.**

**DOLOMITE**

Dolomite is lime that contains calcium and magnesium. It helps prevent Blossom End Rot (BER), and it helps balance the pH of the growing media. Incorporate a ½ lb. of dolomite during the initial planting, and each year when replanting your EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system. When replanting, mix the dolomite in the top 2-3” of the growing media before planting. **Do NOT substitute dolomite with hydrated lime.**

**FERTILIZER/PLANT FOOD**

The EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system is designed to be used with a strip of common dry granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables. **Do NOT use water-soluble or time-released fertilizer.** Each of the three NPK numbers on the label should be between 5 and 15. You can choose a synthetic fertilizer or an organic fertilizer. If you prefer a synthetic fertilizer, use a ½ lb. If you prefer an organic fertilizer, use ¾ lb. Do not add any additional fertilizer during the growing season. Both the EarthBox® Junior™ Ready-To-Grow Kit and the EarthBox® Junior™ Garden Kit (available at retailers), already include a pre-measured fertilizer great for growing vegetables, herbs, or flowers.

**PLANT SELECTION**

The EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system is designed for growing herbs, flowers, and small vegetable plants. We recommend using the smaller 5-7” seedlings available in 2” pots, or direct seeding with plant types that are normally easy to grow from seed like beans. Do not overcrowd the EarthBox® Junior™ gardening system. **Pay close attention to the recommended plant amounts in the Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart (left). For best results, do NOT mix different types of plants in the system.**
1. Assemble Parts: Add Screen & Fill Tube to container
   - 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 box. The fill tube sits on the same side as the overflow drain.

2. Pack Wicking Chambers Firmly with Moist Growing Media
   - IMPORTANT: Packing the chambers with moist growing media will ensure proper wicking throughout the box.

3. Add Layer of Moist Growing Media
   - Layer of growing media

4. Incorporate Dolomite (1) into Growing Media
   - Spread the dolomite (1) evenly and mix into the growing media.

5. Level Moist Growing Media With Top of EarthBox® Junior™ Gardening System
   - Top off with moist growing media

6. Create a Trough for Fertilizer Placement
   - Refer to the Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart to determine location of trough.

7. Place Fertilizer (2) in Trough
   - Use entire contents of the bag. Use this even if your growing media already comes added with fertilizer.

8. Create Mound with Remaining Moist Growing Media
   - IMPORTANT: Create a 2" mound of growing media over the fertilizer strip.

9. Place Mulch Cover on the EarthBox® Junior™ System
   - Place cover black side up. If peak growing season temperatures consistently remain over 85°F, place cover white side up.
   - OPTIONAL: You may use a red mulch cover, instead of the BWC, if growing strawberries.

10. Cut Holes in the Mulch Cover
    - IMPORTANT: Refer to Plant & Fertilizer Placement chart to determine the number and location of plants. Cut the holes the same size as the root ball of your plant. It is recommended to cut an "X" for each plant so the flaps can be pushed back into place.

11. Plant Seeds or Seedlings
    - IMPORTANT: Follow recommended planting instructions that come with your seeds or seedlings. At this time ONLY, water around the base of each seedling.
    - NOTE: Place cover under the overflow drain. 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 the plants are young, and at least once every day when your plants are mature.

12. Fill Reservoir and Water Regularly
    - NOTE: Cut holes in the cover and place black side up. If peak growing season temperatures consistently remain over 85°F, place cover white side up.

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