Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart

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

Planting Legend:

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

**IMPORTANT!**

Use this chart on Steps 6 and 10

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**2 seedlings (2 per row)**
- Artichokes, Eggplants, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Zucchini/Summer Squash

**4 seedlings (2 per row)**
- Cucumbers, Melons, Winter Squash (vining)

**6 seedlings (3 per row)**
- Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chard, Collard Greens, Herbs, Hot Peppers, Strawberries

**8 seedlings (4 per row)**
- Flowers, Head Lettuce, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Okra, Radicchio, Salad Greens

**10 seedlings (5 per row)**
- Beets, Onions, Spinach, Turnips

**16 seedlings (8 per row)**
- Beans, Carrots (short), Corn, Garlic, Peas, Radishes

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Thank You for Purchasing an EarthBox® Gardening System!

**Your Package May Include:**

- EarthBox® container
- Aeration Screen
- Fill Tube
- Mulch Covers (2/B, reversible)
- 1 lb. Dolomite & 1 lb. Fertilizer (included with Garden Kit or Ready-to-Grow Kit ONLY)
- Casters (included with Garden Kit or Ready-to-Grow Kit ONLY)

**2.8 cu. ft. growing media**
- (included with Ready-to-Grow Kit ONLY)

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**BEGIN HERE** | Important Information About Planting

Determine what type and how many plants you need. You should choose only 1 type of plant per EarthBox® gardening system. Have ready an EarthBox® gardening system, 2 cubic feet of peat-based growing media, a water source (minimum of 4 gallons), a knife or scissors, dolomite, and fertilizer. **Choose a location for your EarthBox® gardening system:** Select a sunny spot with a minimum of 6 hours of daily sunshine for warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant; select partial shade for cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach, and arugula.

**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 2 cubic feet (60 dry quarts) per EarthBox® 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, sand, or topsoil in the EarthBox® gardening system**.

**DOLOMITE**

Dolomite is lime that contains calcium and magnesium—essential trace elements for growing most vegetables. It helps prevent Blossom End Rot (also known as BER, a common disorder in tomatoes), and helps balance the pH of the growing media. Incorporate 1 lb. of dolomite during the initial planting, and each year when replanting your EarthBox® gardening system. **DO NOT substitute dolomite with hydrated 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-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 1 lb. If you prefer an organic fertilizer, use 1½ lbs. Do not add any additional fertilizer during the growing season. Both the EarthBox® Ready-to-Grow Kit and the EarthBox® Garden Kit (available at retailers), include a pre-measured fertilizer great for growing vegetables, herbs, fruit, or flowers.

**PLANT SELECTION**

Pay close attention to the recommended plant types and amounts in the Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart (left). Anything listed here will grow in the EarthBox® gardening system. You can use the smaller 5-7” seedlings available in 2” pots, or larger seedlings. You can do some direct seeding with plant types that are normally easy to grow from seed like cucumbers, squash, corn, and beans. Do not overcrowd the EarthBox® gardening system. **For best results, do NOT mix different types of plants in the system, or try to plant something that is not recommended.**
1. Assemble Parts: Add Screen, Fill Tube and Casters to Container

2. Pack Corners Firmly with Moist Growing Media

3. Add Layer of Moist Growing Media

4. Incorporate Dolomite (1) into Growing Media

5. Level Moist Growing Media With Top of EarthBox® Gardening System

6. Create a Trough for Fertilizer Placement

7. Place Fertilizer (2) in Trough

8. Create Mound with Remaining Moist Growing Media

9. Place Mulch Cover on the EarthBox® Gardening System

10. Cut Holes in the Mulch Cover

11. Plant Seeds or Seedlings

12. Fill Reservoir and Water Regularly

**NOTE:** 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. If casters are desired, insert them into the caster sockets on the bottom of the container.

**IMPORTANT!** Packing the corners with moist growing media will ensure proper watering throughout the system.

**NOTE:** Spread the dolomite (1) evenly and mix into the growing media.

**IMPORTANT!** Refer to Plant & Fertilizer Placement Chart to determine location of trough for the type of plants you want to grow.

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

**IMPORTANT!** Create at least a 4"-6" mound of growing media over the fertilizer strip, overfilling the system.

**NOTE:** Place cover back 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 black, of growing tomatoes or strawberries.

**IMPORTANT!** Refer to Plant & Fertilizer Placement chart to determine the number and location of plants. Cut 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.

**NOTE:** Follow recommended planting instructions that come with your seeds or seedlings. At this time ONLY, water around the base of each seedling.

**NOTE:** Use the fill tube to keep the water reservoir full. You know the reservoir is full when water flows from the overflow drain. Don’t try to regulate the water level. Add water every few days when the plants are young, and at least once every day when your plants are mature.

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- **STAKING SYSTEMS**
- **EARTHBOX® ROOT&VEG GARDENING SYSTEM**
- **REPLANT KITS**
- **EARTHBOX® JUNIOR™ GARDENING SYSTEM**
- **GARDEN STAND**

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