

French Flower Bucket

Slim copper buckets like these, are a familiar sight at Parisian flower markets. This planter can be use indoors or out, on the floor, patio or even hanging from a fence post.

Instructions

NOTE: As an outdoor planter, you'll need to make sure the bucket has adequate drainage to prevent rainwater from drowning your plants. Drill one or two 1/2-inch holes in the bottom floor of the bucket only (not the reservoir).

If you place the planter outdoor but choose not to drill holes, add 2 inches of gravel or small rocks beneath the water reservoir and place the bucket in an area protected from heavy rain.

Place the Reservoir (with lid) in the bottom of the bucket. Place the watering Fill tube into the reservoir, then extend the tube to the appropriate height, at least 1/2 inch above where the the soil will be when the bucket is full.

Planting

Soil for container-grown plants should be light and friable, well drained and moisture-retentive. Most container-grown plants are happiest in a soilless blend comprised of sphagnum peat moss, perlite and finished compost.

We suggest using a pre-mixed blend, such as our Self-Watering Container Mix (item #33-819) which is especially formulated for planters that wick moisture from a built-in reservoir.

Pre-moisten the soil before planting. Pack the moistened soil around the reservoir to hold it in place, and into the center column. To perform as a self-watering planter, the soil must be in contact with the opening in the bottom of the column.

Over, please



Place your plant in the pot and finish adding soil around it. Water well to establish good soil contact with the reservoir. Add 1 quart of water to the reservoir through the fill tube. You can also add a fertilizer solution in the same manner. Do not add more than a quart of liquid at a time.

Replenishing the Soil

Any soil mix will become depleted over time. If the planting mix seems dry and compact or water-logged and heavy, you may need to replace your soil mix at the start of a new growing season.

Watering

Self-watering containers have an upper area that holds the plant and soil, and a lower area or bottom reservoir that holds extra water. Soil and evaporation act as a wick to join the upper and lower areas, pulling water up into the root ball as it's needed. Most reservoirs are large enough to supply water for several days or more depending on the weather.

If you go off to work in the morning on a hot sunny day, without watering your planter, you may come home to wilted, if not dead, plants. When plants get too dry, their delicate feeder roots die. Even after they are watered, the plants must concentrate their energy on re-growing damaged roots rather than producing fruit or flowers.

Fertilizing

Most container mixes provide few nutrients; your plants will be totally dependent on you for their food.

Add granular organic fertilizer to the soil at planting time, then water weekly with half-strength, water-soluble fertilizer. Foliar feed with seaweed or fish emulsion for a quick pick-me-up if your plants look stressed or have been cut back.