

Self-Watering Sap Bucket

Charming on deck railings, on the porch, or hanging from fence posts, our Vermont-style Sap Bucket planters look just like the genuine article.

We've included a one-quart self-watering reservoir for healthy plants. The soil acts as the wicking material, drawing water from inside the reservoir to the root zone.

As an Outdoor Planter

NOTE: If used outdoors, you'll need to make sure your pot has adequate drainage to prevent rain-water from drowning your plants. Drill one or two 1/2 inch holes in the bottom floor of the metal Sap Bucket only.

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

Assembly

1. Using the 3 tabs located on the Reservoir lid, lock the lid to the top of the Reservoir.
2. Place the Fill Tube into the round slot in the Reservoir. Place

the Reservoir into the bottom of the Sap Bucket.

3. Fill the Reservoir with water through the Fill Tube. (Fill only to the top of the Reservoir, not into the Fill Tube).

4. Place the floated end of the white Water Level Indicator into the Fill Tube. Use scissors to cut the Water Indicator just below the top of the Fill Tube so that you may close the Fill Tube cover.

Planting

Soil for container-grown plants should be light and friable, well drained and moisture-retentive. Garden soil is much too dense and can introduce disease and insect problems.

Over, please



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.

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.

- Never water your plants with softened water. It contains dissolved salts that are toxic to plants.

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.