

Classica Planter

Self-watering containers have special reservoirs that reduce watering chores and allow plants to draw moisture as they need it.

The 17" diameter Classica Planter holds 16 quarts of planting mix and 2-1/2 gallons of water. The 22" planter holds 64 quarts of planting mix and 5 gallons of water.

We recommend using a good growing mix that consists primarily of sphagnum peat, perlite and vermiculite. (see Ordering Information for our Self-Watering Container Mix.)

Drill Drainage Holes: Measure 4-1/2" up from the bottom of the 17" Planter or 6" up from the bottom of the 22" Planter. Mark this measurement with a pencil on both sides of the Planter. Carefully drill through the planter wall at this mark using a 1/4" bit.

Step 2. Lay out all Planter parts on a level surface.

Parts included :

- Planter
- Reservoir Platform with Capillary Strip
- Capillary Strip
- Water Fill Tube *(Over, Please)*

Assembly Instructions

Step 1. Preparing the Planter for Outdoor Use: The Planter is watertight and can be used indoors; however, for outdoor use, it is important to drill two 1/4" holes through the wall of the Planter (at the top of the Reservoir area). These drainage holes will allow excess water to drain out during heavy rains. **Drainage is very important; otherwise your plants may drown.**

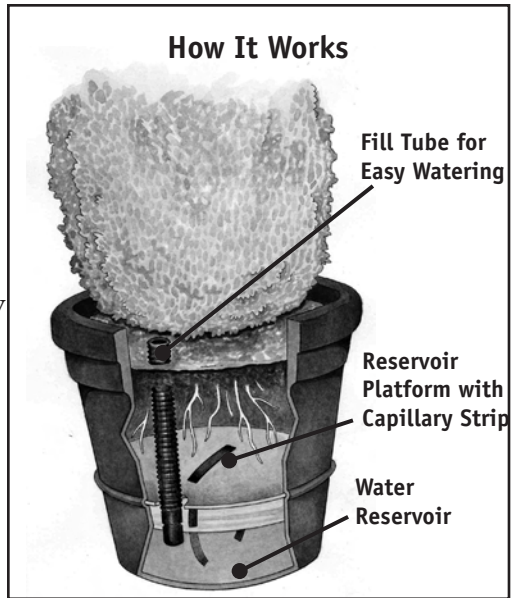


Step 3. Weave the Capillary Strip through the two narrow slots in the Reservoir Platform (shown at right). With the Planter upright on the ground, locate the rib on the inside wall. Push the Platform down until the edge fits snugly inside the rib and is level. The ends of the Capillary Strip should hang inside the Water Reservoir.

Step 4. Expand the Fill Tube and place the smooth end of the Tube in the round slot in the Platform until it reaches the first couple of ribs. The Fill Tube should then "lock" into position, with the bottom of the Tube about 3" above the floor level. Make sure the top of the Tube will be above the surface of the Planting Mix when the Planter is full.

Step 5. In a separate container, moisten the Planting Mix until it's fluffy and moist but not soggy. Use a good container mix, such as our Self-Watering Container Mix, which consists primarily of sphagnum peat, perlite and vermiculite. Fill the planter with planting mix to within 1 to 2 inches of the top edge and plant your plant(s).

Step 6. Fill the Reservoir with water through the Fill Tube. You'll know the Reservoir is full when the water begins to flow out the drainage holes. If you are using the planter indoors, add 2-1/2 gallons of water to the 17"



Classica Planter reservoir and 5 gallons to the 22" Classica Planter reservoir.

Step 7. After planting, water the soil once from above to ensure the soil is moist throughout.

More About Planting Mix

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.

Most container-grown plants are happiest in a soilless blend comprised of sphagnum peat moss, perlite and finished compost.

It's easy to purchase a pre-mixed blend, such as our Self-Watering Container Mix,

which is especially formulated for planters that wick moisture from a built-in reservoir.

Replenishing the Soil

Any soil mix will become depleted over time. If your containers seem dry and compact or water-logged and heavy, you may need to replace your soil mix at the start of a new growing season with a fresh mix. Or, you can replenish the soil with Container Booster Mix, which recharges depleted soil (see *Ordering Information*).

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 and sometimes a strip of absorbent fabric 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 windowboxes or patio containers, 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.

If you are using planters that are not self-watering, you'll probably need to check on your plants daily, and maybe even twice a day if the weather is really hot.

Watering Tips

- Start with a moisture-retentive planting mix that consists of at least 50% ground sphagnum moss and vermiculite or perlite
 - For large containers, reduce evaporation by covering the soil surface with a thin layer of mulch (shredded bark, leaf mold, dry grass clippings or straw.)
 - Reduce moisture loss from leaf surfaces by using a lattice, trellis, awning or umbrella to shield plants from midday heat.



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

- Rainwater (collect it in a barrel from your roof) is best.

- Cluster your potted plants to minimize moisture loss and increase humidity.

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. Foliar feed with seaweed or fish emulsion for a quick pick-me-up if your plants look stressed or have been cut back. Continue to fertilize through the season as directed on the fertilizer label.

Maintenance

Each week during the growing season, remove spent flowers and pinch back leggy stems. As the season progresses, replace tired plants with some fresh annuals, especially late-season favorites, such as ornamental kale and mums.

Soil and water that is left in a container in winter can freeze and expand, causing your container to crack or split. To prevent damage, it is best to empty, clean and store your containers indoors before freezing weather sets in.

If you plan to overwinter your potted plants, some plants should be cut back and put in a cool location. Water sparingly and do not fertilize until spring. Once warm weather arrives, remove plants from their containers, tease away old soil, and repot the plants in a fresh soil blend.

Trellises and Supports

Vertical support is a necessity for container-grown tomatoes, cucumbers, and flowering vines. Trellises can also add a beautiful vertical accent when covered with morning glories or sweet peas. Keep the scale of the trellis in proportion to the pot, and be sure to attach it securely using brackets or wires.

Ordering Information

#33-819 Self-Watering Container Mix, 20 qt

#31-571 Container Booster Mix, 6 qt

To order, please call or visit our web site for current prices.