

## EarthBox

This patented EarthBox was developed by commercial farmers and proven in the lab and on the farm. The maintenance-free, award-winning, high-tech growing system controls soil conditions, eliminates guesswork and more than doubles the yield of a conventional garden-with less fertilizer, less water and virtually no effort.

Acting on the laws of nature, the EarthBox facilitates the movement of nutrients from areas of high concentration to areas of low concentration. When the EarthBox is set up, the fertilizer stripe is placed on top of the potting mix-creating an area of high nutrient concentration. At this time, the potting mix around the roots of the growing plant has no fertilizer. When water is added, the moist potting mix slowly conducts the diluted nutrients down the concentration gradient to the plant roots, which absorb optimal amounts of nutrients at any given time.



### Water and Fertilizer Conservation

The EarthBox's plastic cover drastically reduces the water evaporation rate and returns condensed water vapor to the potting mix. As the plants draw water from the reservoir, they consume only what they need to stay healthy. **Plants cannot be over-watered or under-watered if the reservoir is kept full.** The plastic cover also prevents fertilizer from being diluted or washed away by rain.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Does the EarthBox really work?

Our studies have shown that the EarthBox can double yields, using less water and fertilizer compared to conventional gardening.

#### How large is the EarthBox?

The dimensions of the EarthBox are 29" L x 13.5" W x 11" H.

#### What should I do if I have poor soil in my area?

Since The EarthBox uses potting mix, soil conditions in your area mean nothing. In fact many people have tremendous EarthBox gardens on their patios, balconies and decks.

#### What is the best way to control weeds in my garden?

Since the potting mix in The EarthBox is covered, weeds don't even have a chance to start. There's never any need to pull weeds or use herbicides.

#### When should I add water?

You can't over water, so don't try to regulate the moisture level in the potting mix. Keep the reservoir filled. When the plants are small, add water every few days. As they grow larger, add water more often. You can easily assess the water usage by the time it takes the water to pour from the overflow hole. Never let the reservoir go dry.

**I think my plants are getting too much/too little water. Can I manually adjust the watering?**

The EarthBox has been designed so that you can't over water and the only way to underwater is to let the water reservoir run dry. Remember that plants are taking the exact amount of water they need from the reservoir-no more and no less. Resist the temptation to second-guess the system, as this will only lessen results.

**What time of day should I water my garden?**

Water the EarthBox when it is convenient for you. Just remember to never let the reservoir run dry.

**What is Dolomite? Is it used only for tomato plants?**

Dolomite, or hydrated lime, can be used for any plant, although it is critical for healthy tomatoes. Tomato plants need a lot of calcium in order to produce healthy fruit; dolomite satisfies this requirement.

**What kind of potting mixture should I use?**

Almost any brand of peat based potting mix for containers or hanging plants will work. You'll need 2 cubic feet (quarts) per box and 1 cup of dolomite or hydrated lime. Try to find potting mix without fertilizer already mixed in.

**What kind of fertilizer does the EarthBox need?**

Each time you plant in the EarthBox, use two cups of a dry granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables, like Osmocote 14-14-14. After you have applied the fertilizer stripe, no additional fertilizer will be needed

**How do I know when to fertilize my plants?**

With the EarthBox system you fertilize only one time-when you first set it up. Use just two cups of almost any fertilizer and the plants will have just as much as they want, when they want it. You can't over or under feed. Avoid fertilizers that are mixed with water.

**Can I use liquid fertilizer or fertilizers that are mixed with water?**

Years of scientific research have gone into determining the type, quantity and placement of fertilizer to maximize plant health and production. Liquid fertilizers defeat the purpose of the EarthBox system, as nutrients are not provided on a constant stable basis. Two cups of a dry fertilizer are all your plants will need in the EarthBox.

**Should I do anything special for tomato plants?**

Most varieties require a higher pH level of potting mix. Simply mix one cup of dolomite or hydrated lime to the top 2-3 inches of potting mix (before adding the fertilizer strip) to raise the pH. The EarthBox will do the rest.

**What if I need support stakes for my tomato plants?**

Tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, beans and other vine plants need support. The EarthBox now offers an optional staking system that integrates with the EarthBox container. This eliminates the need for awkward wire plant cages or trellises.

**How can I prevent splitting tomatoes?**

Tomatoes will split when (1) there is lots of heat and lots of rain or (2) if very dry weather is followed by two days of rainfall. It is really caused by the drastic change in the amount of water in the fruit along with the heat. You can cover your plants with shade cloth to cut the amount of heat and always remember to keep the water reservoir full so the plants always have a consistent supply of water.

**What can I do to prevent black spots on the bottom of my tomatoes?**

The black on the bottom of your tomatoes is called "blossom end rot." It is caused by a lack of calcium and other ingredients from the potting mix. Adding 2 cups of hydrated lime to the potting mix before planting as in the instructions can help prevent the blossom end rot from forming. In the event the blossom end rot still presents itself mix 1/4 cup of hydrated lime with one gallon of water and add that to the reservoir the next time you fill your EarthBox with water.

**Can I remove the plastic cover once the plants have started growing?**

You should never remove the cover until you're ready to replant. The EarthBox cover is an integral part of the EarthBox gardening system. The cover helps to keep your potting mix moist; it keeps the weather away from your fertilizer and the cover helps to stop weeds and other unwanted plants from getting into your EarthBox.

**During the winter, is it necessary to remove the soil/dirt/plantings-to prevent frost breaking the container?**

In order to prepare your EarthBox for winter, we recommend that you remove the old plants, cover and fertilizer. Place a new cover on your EarthBox and drain the remaining water.