



STARTING YOUR CONTAINER GARDEN

Instructions for Transplanting Your Seedlings

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bucket (with holes drilled in bottom) or other semi-permeable container at least 5 gallons
- Soil/compost mix
- Seedlings
- Trowel
- Gloves

CARE

- Say something nice to your plant! (optional, but fun).
- Place container in a sunny location (depending on plant needs) and water/check on your plant regularly. See the plant-specific guides for more details on how to treat your seedlings well!

INSTRUCTIONS

- On a surface that won't be hard to clean (i.e. not your carpet), pour/shovel soil into buckets until they are filled within an inch of the top. Push soil down gently and fill again to the same height. Soil will settle over time, and you want your plants to be close to the surface of your bucket.
- In the center of your bucket, dig out a small hole about 2x the size of the soil around your new seedling. Move the soil to the sides of the bucket, rather than taking it out.
- When soil is loose, remove your plant from its plastic container. Gently press the sides of your seedling's container to loosen it and then slide out the seedling (don't pull it out or you risk breaking the stem off from the roots).
- Place seedling roots into your hole and gently scrape soil back around it. You want all the roots to be completely covered by soil, and the stem/leaves to be exposed. No need to pat down the soil after planting - loose soil allows water to enter more easily. Make sure your plant isn't sitting in a low-point, you want the soil to be relatively flat.
- Then water your plant! Taking your water container pour about 24 oz. of water evenly around the entire base of the plant, allowing the soil to settle in and make contact



PREPPING CONTAINERS FOR FALL PLANTING

PLANTS

When your plants (except for herbs) stop producing for the year, you can remove them from your pot, shake off any excess soil from the roots and add them to your compost or brush pile.

- If plants suffered from disease, they should not be composted.

REPLANTING

Go see what new plant starts are available at local farms! Common fall crops include: kale, lettuce, carrots, collards, etc. In Georgia, you can wait to plant most fall crops until your summer crops stop producing. September-October should work well, but wait until hot temperatures start to wind down, otherwise you'll really need to pamper your plants for them to do well.

SOIL

- Because plants get their nutrients from the soil, you'll need to refresh your bucket garden before planting it again.
- Loosen up any soil that is left in the container - you can do this with a hand trowel.
- Add nutrients - if possible, add an OMRI certified plant food (a very small quantity will suffice for a bucket garden).
- Add more soil, if needed - you don't want to add soil from the ground because it's too dense to properly drain in your bucket. A soil/compost mix or raised bed mix (sold in bags at stores) will provide nutrients and volume with minimal effort. You'll want to fill your bucket almost to the top, mixing new soil in with the remains of the previous growing season.