

# EARTHBOX PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS...

in our own words...



## Thanks for choosing EarthBox!

You *know* we love them, and for many good reasons. Planting is not difficult, but review these instructions before jumping in. This is basically how we described it to you at the Market or at our Home Nursery...you will recognize the steps. Have fun!

We find it helpful (and easier on the back!) to plant the EarthBox up on a table or in one of the iron EarthBox Stands, and then move it to where you're going to have it, and *then* fill the water reservoir...remember 3 gallons of water weighs 24 pounds!

Remove the sticker from the screen in the bottom of the Box...it helps if it's warm (leave it in the sun for 20 minutes, or use a hairdryer). Also remove the sticker from the front of the Box.

Drop in the screen and put the watering tube in the right front corner, leaning it into the corner.

Pack the back corners of the box with soil and get them wet until they're tight and squishy.

Fill the Box up to about 3" below the top, getting the soil broken up and wet, and tamping it down (press it down gently) as you fill.

Pour all the contents of Bag #1 (the Dolomite Lime) onto the soil.  
Then add in 4 cups of Worm Castings to this same soil level.  
Mix these into the soil lightly...no need to dig them in deep.

Water a little more...everything should be as wet as a wrung-out rag.

Then fill the Box all the way to the very tip top, getting the soil wet and pressed in until it's full; fill all around the edges, too.

"Chop" a 2" deep trench into the soil all the way down the length of the Box....for Tomatoes or Eggplants, do this at the front of the Box, for anything else, down the center of the Box.

Pour into the trench all the contents of the package #2, which is your Organic Fertilizer. Close up the trench, and then, with double handfuls of soil, create a nice big mound all the way down the length of the trench. Mound it up a couple of inches, and get it gently wet....don't blow it open. This keeps the Fertilizer (with its natural bone meal & blood meal) away from the noses of dogs & other critters. About once a year someone calls saying their dog tore off the cover and ate the Fertilizer!

Put your Plastic Mulch Cover on.... Red for Tomatoes, Black for everything else. If you're doing a Summer crop and live in a very hot area, use the White side up to deflect some of the heat.

First, find the hole in the cover that corresponds to the watering tube; hook the Mulch Cover onto the tube first, then hook the elastic onto the side, then stretch it *up and over* and fit it around the whole Box, being careful not to bust open the fertilizer mound.

Then you're ready to cut the appropriate number of Xs into the mulch cover for what you're planting. For tomatoes, 2 cuts right in the back corners.... for all else, divide the number equally and plant a front and back row, right near the edges – away from the fertilizer.

Dig the soil to the side, not toward the fertilizer.... Plant tomatoes as deep as you can...all else, plant at the same level they were in their pots.

Smooth the soil back over the newly planted seedling, making it even and tamp them in. Give each plant a little drink of water from the top, just this once.

Move the Box to where you want it to be, add the wheels if desired, and then fill the reservoir until it runs out the front overflow signaling it's full. DO THIS again tomorrow just to be sure. Water 2-3 times a week; you'll get the feel for it.

Put your tomato cages on asap...they can get away from you!!

### **FINAL NOTES:**

Don't worry that the instructions EarthBox gives specify Potting Mix, not Potting Soil!! We've been using the beautiful Black Gold Waterhold Soil in ours for 3 years with great results!! It contains 50% cocopeat (the pithy part of the coconut shell) which fluffs the soil and helps it retain moisture.

When doing a "Re-Plant", do not toss out all your soil!! We simply "feed the soil" with more worm castings and some compost, then "feed the plants" with their Organic Replant Kit (which has the Dolomite Lime & Fertilizer like you used in the original planting). Then put on a new mulch cover and plant away!!