

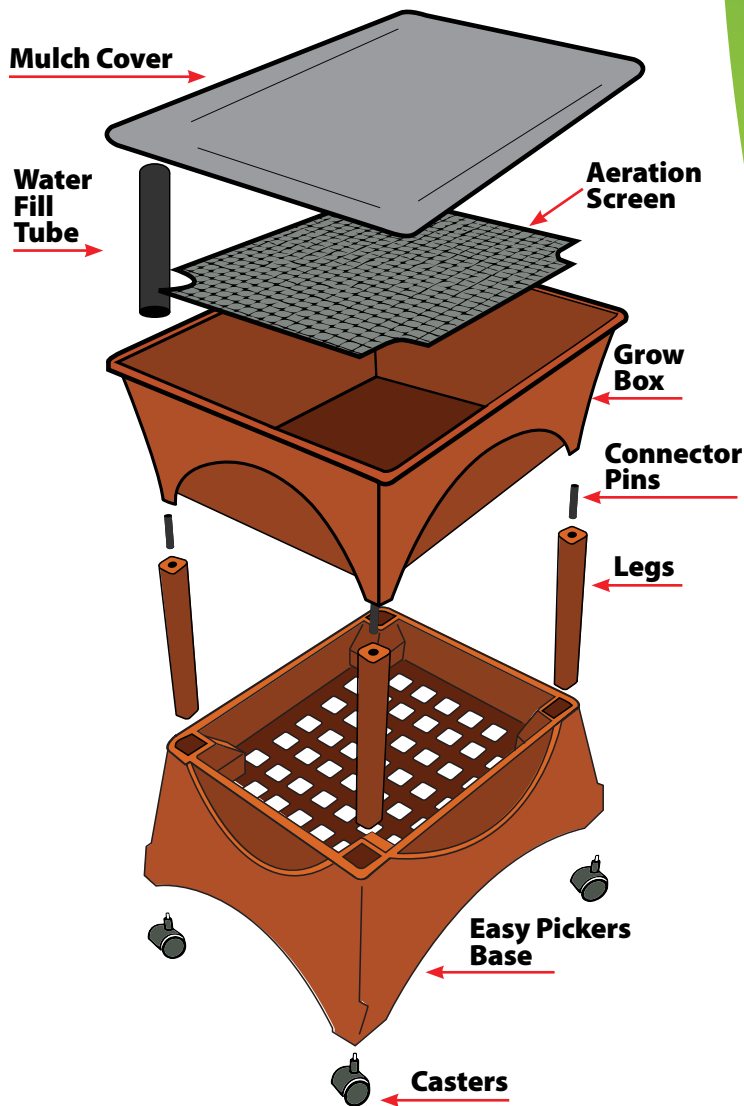
Easy Pickers™



Elevated Grow Box and Stand

INSTRUCTIONS and Planting Guide

Easy Pickers Kit contains:



Grow more with less - less time, less work



You will need:



EMSCO GROUP
Innovation, Function, Quality and Service
www.emscogroup.com

The resin used in these products is a food safe High Density Polyethylene. It is chemically inactive, BPA free and Phthalate free. (Very Food Safe). For long range, the plastic is colorized with UV additives (also chemically inert) to prevent long term degradation in direct sunlight.



"Let's get started" know your terms – shop smart

Growing Media / Potting "Mix"

(NOT Potting "Soil")



You can buy bags of pre-mixed material that work well. It's often sold as "potting mix". . . do NOT use "potting soil." Check the bag label carefully. The main ingredients should be sphagnum peat and/or coir with the remainder as some combination of vermiculite and/or perlite.

The following materials *do NOT* wick and *will NOT* work in your Easy Pickers Grow Box: screened topsoil, forest bi-products, bark, forest humus, saw dust or partially composted material. If the bag lists any of the preceding materials as the dominant material – DO NOT BUY IT. Many potting mixes available incorporate a water-soluble or time-release fertilizer. This does not replace the fertilizer or dolomite. The potting mix can be used for 4-6 growing seasons before being replaced.

Dolomite (Garden Lime)

Dolomite may seem difficult to find. Often bags will NOT say "dolomite". It might be labeled as "Agricultural Lime", "Agricultural Limestone" or "Garden Lime". These are broad terms. If it doesn't say calcium, magnesium or calcium/magnesium carbonate or some variation of this, then it's not dolomite. Check the ingredients label. Dolomite is lime that contains CALCIUM and MAGNESIUM. "Hydrated Lime" is not dolomite. Hydrated Lime is highly caustic and dangerous to handle or breathe. Also, it contains no magnesium.

Use two cups (1 lb.) of dolomite (garden lime) for the initial planting and every time you replant your Easy Pickers Grow Box.

NOTE: When replanting, mix the dolomite in the top 3-4" of the potting mix before planting.

Fertilizer

For best results in your Easy Pickers Grow Box, use a strip of common, dry, granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables.



NOTE: Each of the three numbers on the label should be between 5 and 15. Use a fertilizer that does NOT need to be mixed with water (water-soluble) or one that is NOT time or slow released. You can choose a synthetic fertilizer or an organic fertilizer. If using a synthetic fertilizer, use two cups; if organic fertilizer, use three cups. Do NOT add fertilizer during the growing season.

Tips for a Successful City Picker Garden

- Always keep the water reservoir full. Allowing the system to run dry stops plants from taking in nutrients.
- Add water (always through the fill tube) every couple of days when plants are small/young. Increase to daily watering as the plants mature.
- Always fill the reservoir completely. You'll know it's full when water runs out the planter's overflow drain hole.
- Do not overcrowd the planter. Be sure plants are not planted too close to fertilizer strip.
- Warm-season crops like tomatoes should be positioned to get 6-8 hours of sunlight daily.
- Cool-season plants such as leafy lettuce and spinach prefer partial shade.
- Tall plants (tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants etc.) and vines require supports as they grow. Stakes or small cages can be inserted into the planter box through the mulch cover to support these plants as they mature.

Plant Selection

Choose your favorites or try something new. Seedlings available at your local garden center or nursery will grow in your Easy Pickers Grow Box. You can use the small or large seedlings. Average seedlings are 5-7" tall and in 2" wide pots.

You can also plant your Easy Pickers Grow Box with seed. We recommend you choose plants that are normally easy to grow from seed – cucumbers, squash and beans. Do not overcrowd the box.

Whether planting seedlings or seeds, you may want to contact your local County Cooperative Extension Agency for suggestions.

AVERAGE SEEDLING QUANTITIES

(Actual amounts may vary based on plant varieties.)

FLOWERS 10 - 12	Cucumbers – 5/6	Onions – 12/14
VEGETABLES	Cauliflower – 8	Peas – 20
Beans, bush – 10	Celery – 8	Peppers – 8
Beans, pole – 20	Eggplant – 2/3	Radishes – 20
Beets – 12	Garlic – 20	Spinach – 12/14
Broccoli – 8	Herbs – 8	Squash – 5/6
Brussels Sprouts – 8	Leeks – 10	Strawberries – 8
Cabbage – 8	Lettuce – 10	Tomatoes – 2/3
Carrots – 20	Melons – 5	Turnips – 12/14
	Okra – 10	

STEP 1

Plan ahead Determine what type and how many plants you need.

Gather materials

- your Easy Pickers Elevated Grow Box and Stand
- 1.5 cubic foot bag of high-quality potting mix
- water (you will need 3 or 4 gallons)
- a sharp knife or scissors
- dolomite (garden lime) and fertilizer

Choose a location

Select a sunny spot with a minimum of 8 hours of daily sunshine for warm-season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant. Select partial shade for cool season crops such as lettuce, spinach, or arugula.

PLANT AND FERTILIZER PLACEMENT



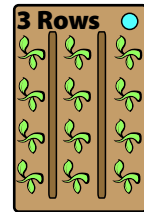
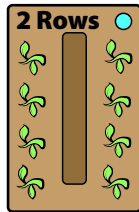
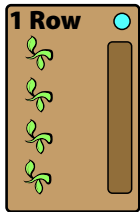
Seedling



Fertilizer

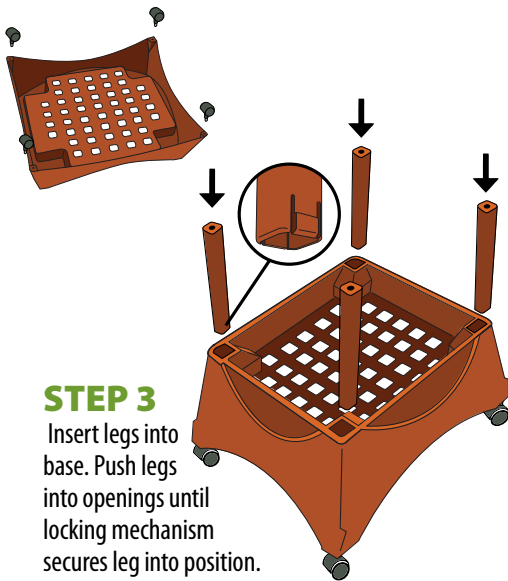


Water Fill Tube



STEP 2 STAND ASSEMBLY

Place Easy Picker base upside down on flat surface and insert four casters into corner holes. Flip the base upright so the casters are on the ground.

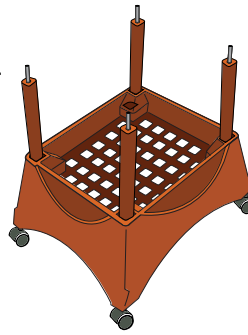


STEP 3

Insert legs into base. Push legs into openings until locking mechanism secures leg into position.

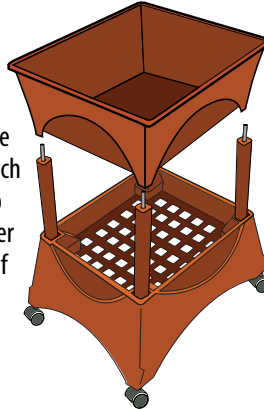
STEP 4

Place steel connector pins into pre-formed holes at top of legs.



STEP 5

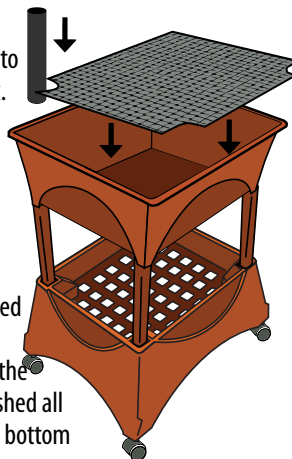
Place Easy Picker Grow Box onto four legs making sure the connector pin on each leg fits securely into corresponding corner hole on underside of Grow Box.



STEP 6

GROW BOX ASSEMBLY

- Place screen and fill tube into your Grow Box.
- Securely and firmly set the screen in the Grow Box.
- Make sure the fill tube is placed through the corner hole in the screen and pushed all the way to the bottom of the Grow Box.



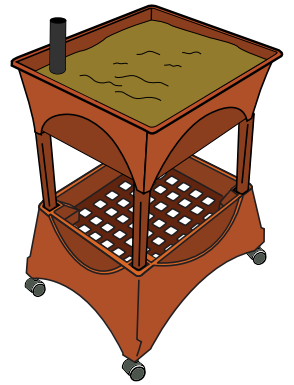
STEP 7 – Pack open corners of the Grow Box with moist potting mix to ensure good wicking of the water to plants.

NOTE: Pre-moistening the potting mix by adding small amounts of water until just moist – NOT soaked – helps start the wicking action. If potting mix is too dry, it soaks up the water like a dry sponge.



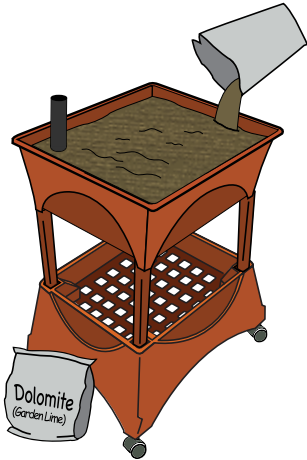
STEP 8

Add a layer of moist potting mix to within 2" from the top of the Grow Box.



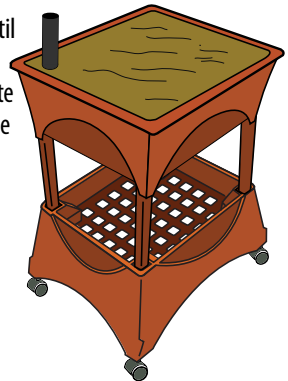
STEP 9

Add a thin layer of dolomite and spread evenly.



STEP 10

Add more potting mix until level with the top of your Grow Box. Mix the dolomite you already placed with the top 3–4" of potting mix. Level the top again so it's even with the top of the Grow Box.



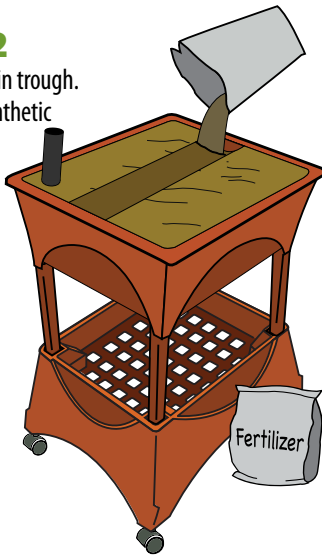
STEP 11

Create a 2" trough for the fertilizer. To determine location of plants and fertilizer trough, refer to Easy Pickers Placement Chart.



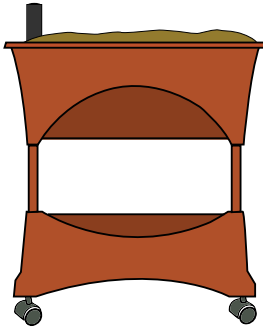
STEP 12

Place fertilizer in trough.
Two cups of synthetic
or three cups
of organic.



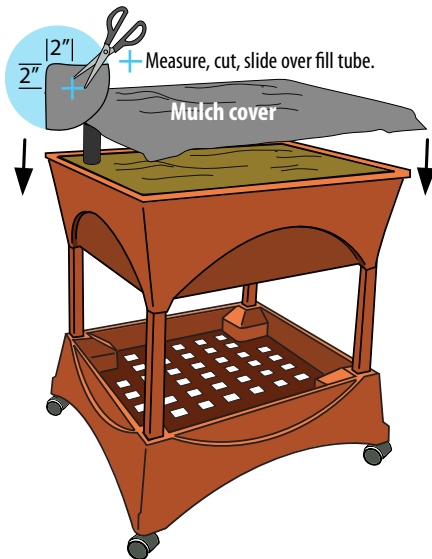
STEP 13

Mound additional potting mix over the
fertilizer and 2" above the top of the Easy
Pickers Grow Box.



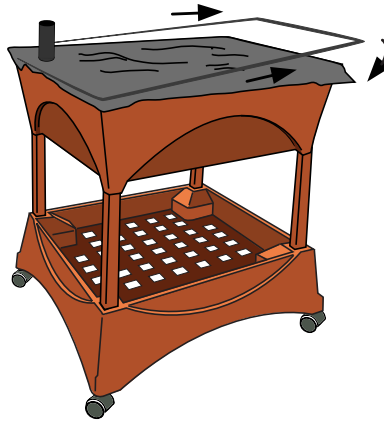
STEP 14

Loosely position mulch cover over Easy Pickers
Grow Box. Determine placement of fill tube
and measure 2" in from each side of corner. Cut
an "X" into cover, slide over tube and continue
to secure cover.



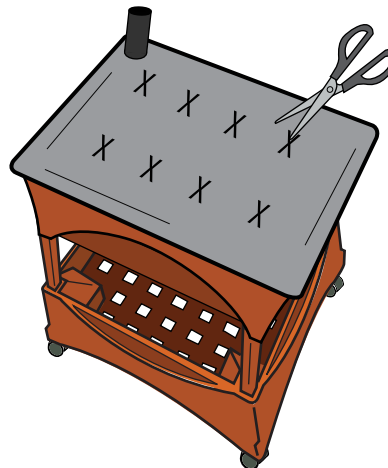
STEP 15

Place elastic band over mulch cover and under
the top lip at one end of box. Stretch the elastic
band, lower it and secure other end of band
under the top lip on the opposite end of box.



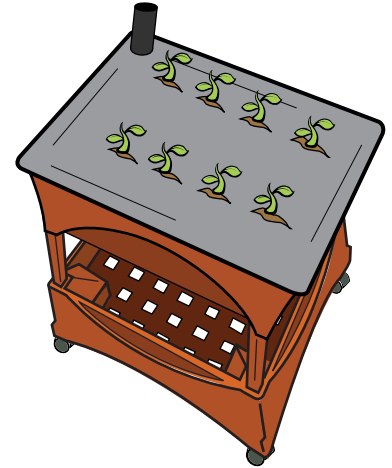
STEP 16

Refer to Easy Pickers Plant Placement Chart to
determine the number and location of plants.
Cut "X"s to the same size as the root ball of
your seedlings.



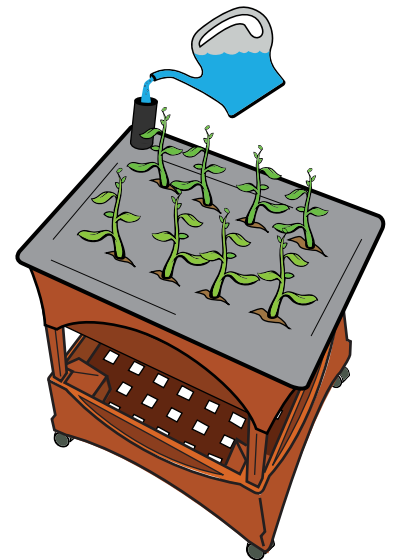
STEP 17

Plant your seedlings/seeds. Refer to the
recommended planting instructions that come
with your seedlings or seeds. Gently loosen
plant root ball and place through mulch cover.



STEP 18

Water regularly. Use the fill tube to fill reservoir
and keep full. The reservoir is full when you
notice water flowing from the overflow hole in
the side of the Easy Pickers Grow Box. Simply
add water every few days for young plants.
Add water at least once every day as your
plants mature.



environmentally responsible
recycled & recyclable material



Contact eginfo@emscogroup.com
with questions or comments.

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