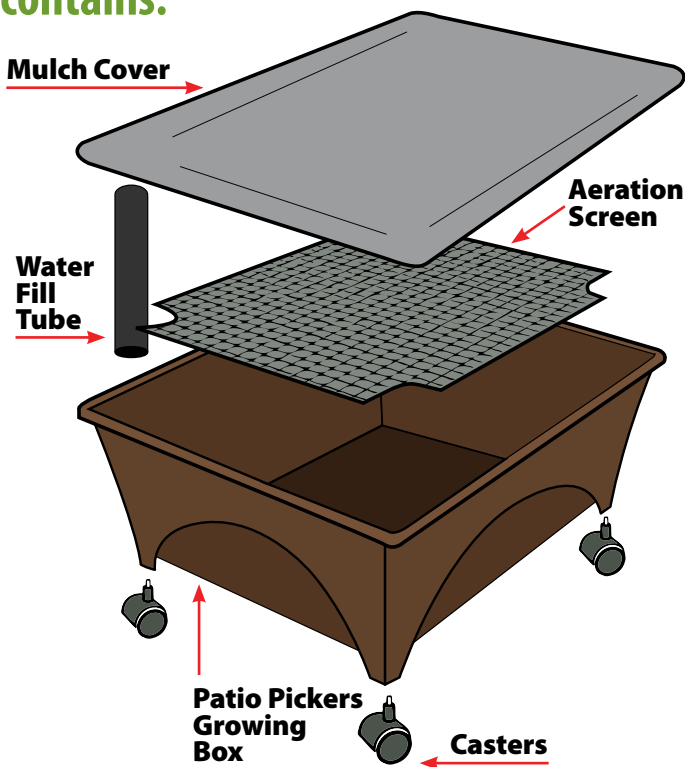


# Patio Pickers™

## Raised Garden Kit

### INSTRUCTIONS & PLANTING GUIDE

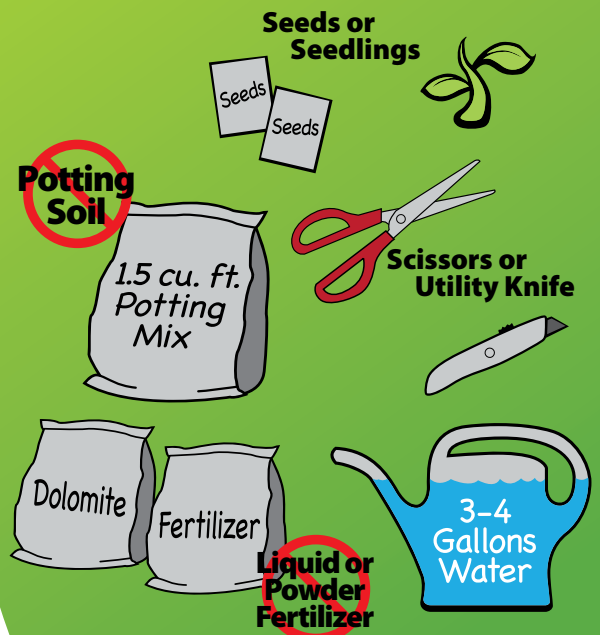
Patio Pickers™ Kit contains:



Grow more with less -  
less time,  
less work



You will need:





# "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 Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit: screened topsoil, forest bi-products, bark, forest humus, saw dust or partially composted something. 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

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 for the initial planting and every time you replant your Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit. NOTE: When replanting, mix the dolomite in the top 3-4" of the potting mix before planting.

## Fertilizer

For best results in your Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit, 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 Patio 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 Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit. You can use the small or large seedlings. Average seedlings are 5-7" tall and in 2" wide pots.

You can also plant your Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit 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.)*

<b>FLOWERS</b> 10 - 12	Cucumbers – 5/6	Onions – 12/14
<b>VEGETABLES</b>	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 Patio Pickers Patio Garden Kit
- 1.5 cubic foot bag of high-quality potting mix
- water (you will need 3 or 4 gallons)
- a sharp knife or scissors
- dolomite 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

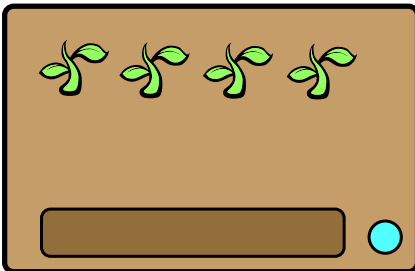


Fertilizer

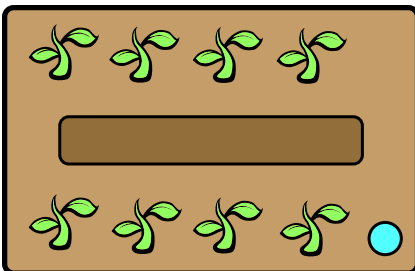


Water fill tube

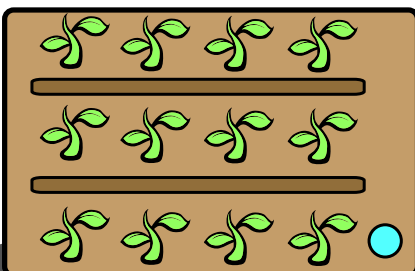
### 1 Row



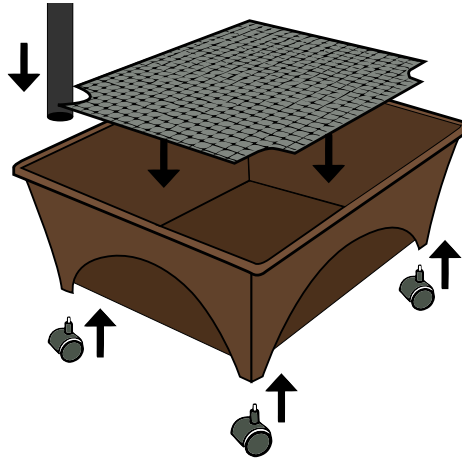
### 2 Rows



### 3 Rows

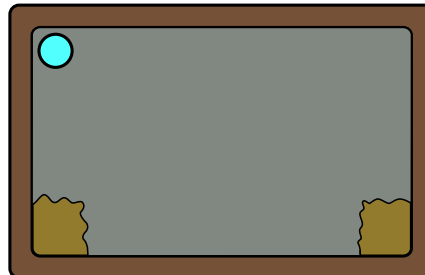


**STEP 2** – Place screen, fill tube and casters into your Patio Pickers Patio Garden. Securely and firmly set the screen in the box. Make sure the fill tube is placed through the corner hole in the screen and pushed all the way to the bottom of the Patio Pickers box.

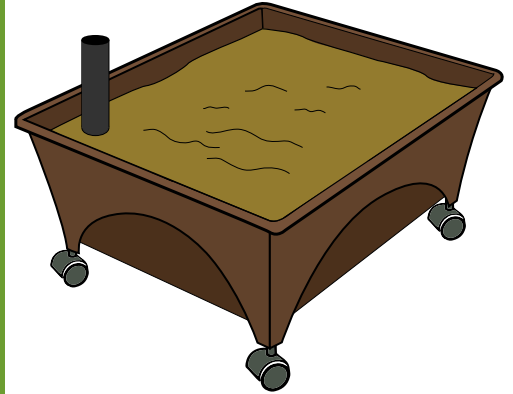


**STEP 3** – Pack open corners of the Patio Pickers box with moist potting mix to ensure good wicking of the water to plants.

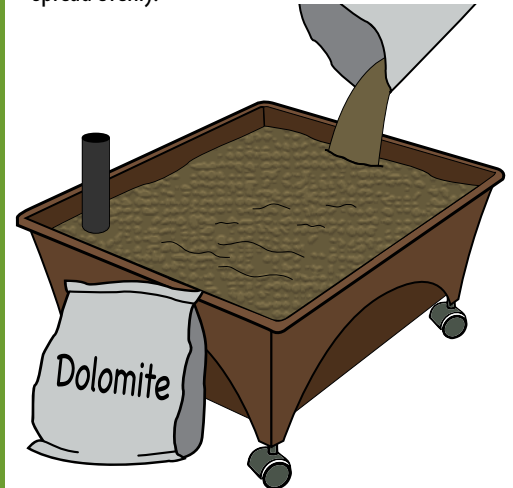
NOTE: Pre-moistening the potting mix by adding small amounts of water until just moist – NOT soaked – helps start the wicking action. If potting mix is too dry, it soaks up the water like a dry sponge.



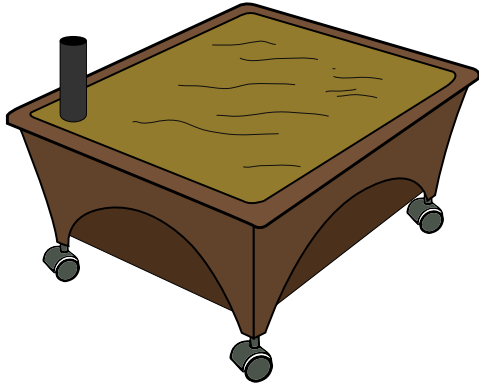
**STEP 4** – Add a layer of moist potting mix to within 2" from the top of the box.



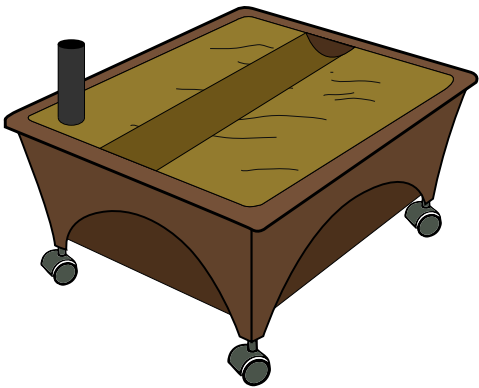
**STEP 5** – Add a thin layer of dolomite and spread evenly.



**STEP 6** – Add moist potting mix until level with the top of your Patio Pickers Patio Garden. 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 Patio Pickers box.



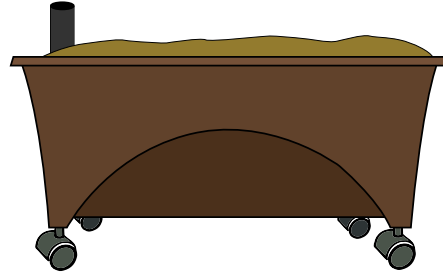
**STEP 7** – Create a 2” trough for the fertilizer. To determine location of plants and fertilizer trough, refer to Patio Pickers Placement Chart.



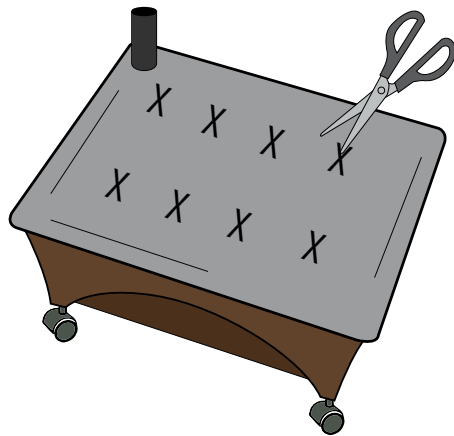
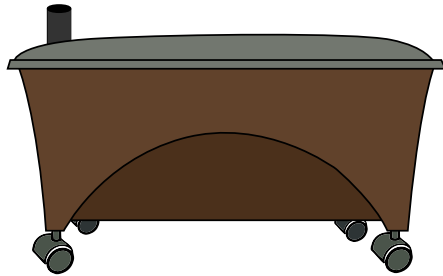
**STEP 8** – Place fertilizer in trough. Two cups of synthetic or three cups of organic.



**STEP 9** – Mound additional potting mix over the fertilizer and 2” above the top of the Patio Pickers box.

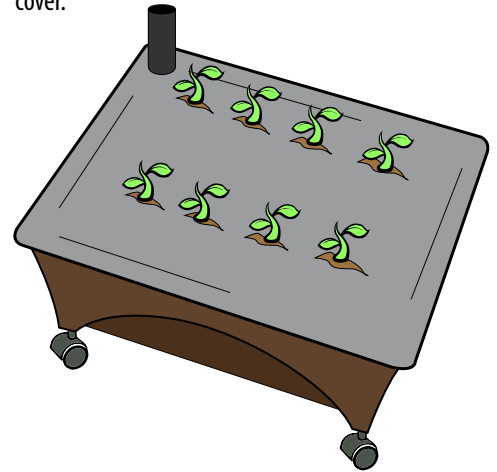


**STEP 10** – Secure mulch cover and cut "X"s in the mulch cover for fill tube and plants. Again, refer to Patio Pickers Placement Chart to determine the number and location of plants. Cut the "X"s to the same size as the root ball of your seedlings.

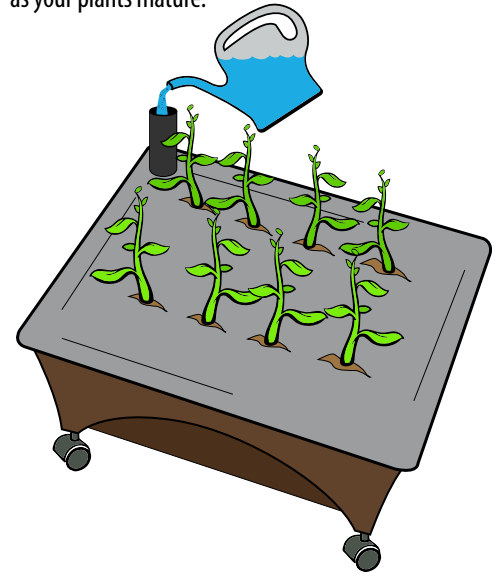


NOTE: Above is an example. Refer to the placement chart for your type of plant.

**STEP 11** – 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 12** – 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 Patio Pickers box. Simply add water every few days for young plants. Add water at least once every day as your plants mature.



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Contact [eginfo@emscogroup.com](mailto:eginfo@emscogroup.com) with questions or comments.

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