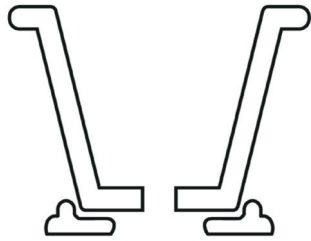
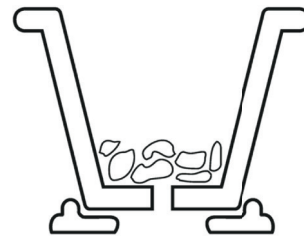


POTTING ADVICE

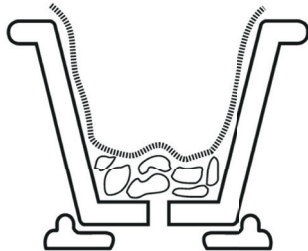
These important instructions are vital to the life of your pot. Providing these steps are followed your pots can endure the winter climate. Drainage is very important for the health and growth of plants, in the ground and in pots. We have planted up many pots and have seen that those with poor drainage have an adverse effect on the condition of plants and pots.



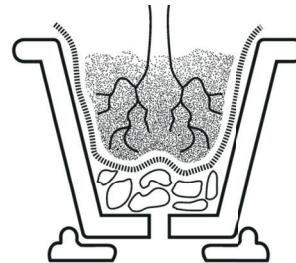
1. Raise the pot from the ground with pot feet or other risers.



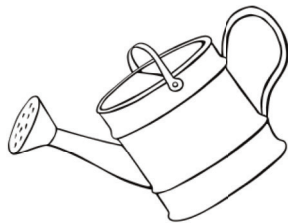
2. Place crock carefully in the bottom of the pot to about a 1/4 full, which adds weight to the base as well as drainage.



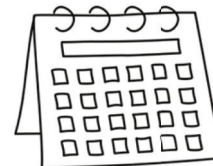
3. Put the provided liner above the crock and up the inside of the pot.



4. Add some shingle to cover the base of the liner and spread out. Add your plants, soil and slow release feed.



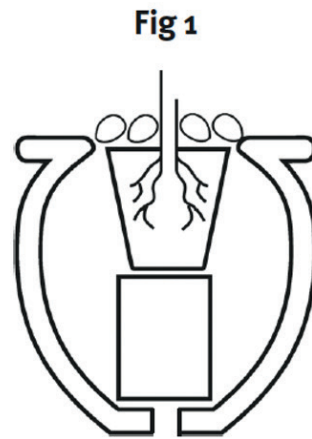
5. Check your pot regularly. Remember that the soil and plants in pots dry out a lot quicker than in the ground.



6. We suggest repeating steps 2 and 3 every couple of years. Remove everything, clean, return the crock and liner and add new compost. Prune the plant roots then replant.

POTTING ADVICE

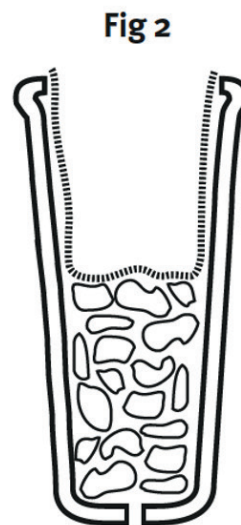
Pot in a pot see Fig 1, using interchangeable pots. Black plastic pots with holes in the base for drainage are ideal for continual interesting planting during the season. Raise the base level to fit the inner pot by using an upturned pot, bricks, wood or polystyrene. Rotate your pots with spring bulbs, hostas, lavender, agapanthus, cosmos and box for the winter. We recommend this method also for very strong and tight rooted plants like agapanthas, it makes for an easier task to repot.



Oil jars are not suitable for full planting. The plant's roots will quickly invade the widest space in the pot and it will become impossible to remove. If you wish to plant an oil jar it is best to use the 'pot in a pot' method. See Fig 1.

Small pots will need more frequent watering during the spring and summer. We suggest they are emptied in winter, or they are raised up to avoid damp conditions.

Les grands pots collections, see Fig 2, require more crock. Fill more than half of the pot with crock, which adds weight and prevents the plant's roots from growing too deep. We do not recommend feet or risers with these tall pots.



Windy positions are not advisable for pots containing tall plants, especially narrow based pots. Choose the right pot for the plant – consider the height of the plant ensuring it is not too top heavy. Securing to a wall will prevent the pot blowing over. Attach a tree tie to the neck of the plant to hide it and make two positions on the wall/fence. Use a strong twine to attach to the tree tie creating a triangle.

Decorative toppings placed on top of the soil create interest. Try using pine cones, pebbles, shells or bark. Covering the exposed soil will reduce evaporation and stop splashing when watering in summer.

Cleaning pots should not be necessary. However if they get excessively green with a lot of algae growth then use a soap based cleaner. If your pots become very green it maybe because they do not have enough light, are under foliage or may not have sufficient drainage. If this is the case then we suggest you repot and reposition.

Box works very well in pots. However, a few tips can help keep the plants healthy. After 2-3 years you will need to repot, root prune and refresh the soil. They will tend to lose nutrients and the leaves turn a bronze colour. A good mineral feed and a liquid foliar seaweed feed helps a quick recovery in greening up. They can take a few months to recover, so be patient. Clipping box is traditionally done on 'Derby Day'. We do it when we can but try to avoid sunny days. If this is not possible then cover the plant with winter fleece after cutting which prevents the sun bruising the cut leaf edge.

Agapanthus and Phormiums are examples of plants with very strong roots, we recommend planting in a nursery tub (Fig 1) - not directly in the pot as the roots could split the pot, best to split the plant.

Moving pots once planted can be difficult. We recommend that the pots are emptied as advised above. If not the pots risk being damaged and a hairline crack could go unnoticed until the winter weather or roots could open it up.

WINTER PROTECTION

Following our planting advice is the best protection. However if your garden is in a frost pocket then fleece is advisable if you are at risk. Some areas do suffer from large amounts of rain and have sudden temperature changes, from freezing to sun, so it is best to protect. At Versailles in Paris, the statues are wrapped for the winter with very stylish hessian and string, so it need not look ugly.

