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## City picker instructions

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The caster wheels will make it easy to move your planter box around, especially if you want to follow the sun during the growing season.The next step is to place the aeration screen into the planting box, following the interior placement markings. The aeration screen is an important component of your patio pickers planter as it helps to provide a sufficient amount of air to the plant roots. The aeration screen also has a rounded indentation in one corner, which is where you will insert the water tube.After you have placed the aeration screen, you can fill your planter box with 1.5 cubic feet of growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. Now your planter is ready for seeds or seedlings, and you can finish by placing the woven mulch cover on top.Emsco provides a detailed, full-colour guide to seedling placement and fertiliser application, which you can refer to for further instructions.Place aeration screen into the planting box To install a patio pickers planter, you'll need to place the aeration screen into the planting box. This is a simple but crucial step, as it helps ensure your plants have access to sufficient air. Here's a detailed guide on how to do it:First, locate the aeration screen, which should be included in your patio pickers planter kit. It's a vital component of the planter, designed to provide airflow to the plant roots. Without it, your plants may not get the oxygen they need to thrive.Next, look for the interior placement markings inside the planting box. These markings indicate where the aeration screen should go. Place the screen inside the box, aligning it with these markings. This ensures the screen is in the correct position to facilitate proper airflow and drainage.As you place the aeration screen, you'll notice that one of its corners has a rounded indentation. This indentation is specifically designed to accommodate the water tube. Insert the water tube into this rounded corner. This setup allows for efficient hydration of your plants while maintaining the necessary airflow.Once you've placed the aeration screen and inserted the water tube, your planting box is almost ready. The next step is to fill the box with growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. You'll need approximately 1.5 cubic feet of growing media to fill the box.After filling the box, you're ready to plant your seeds or seedlings. Don't forget to finish by placing the woven mulch cover on top. This cover helps prevent weed growth while still allowing your plants to receive the sunlight and air they need.Insert the water tube into the rounded indentation of the aeration screen To install the water tube in your patio pickers planter, follow these steps:Unpack your planting box from the shipping container.Place the caster wheels in the four corners of the planting box.Place the aeration screen into the planting box, following the interior placement markings. One corner of the aeration screen will have a rounded indentation.Insert the water tube into the rounded indentation of the aeration screen.Your patio pickers planter should now be assembled!The water tube is an important component of the planter, as it allows you to fill the planter with water. The water tube protrudes from the soil that is placed on top of the aeration screen.After assembling the planter, you will need to fill the box with 1.5 cubic feet of growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. Then, you will be ready to plant your seeds or seedlings and place the woven mulch cover on top. Once you have your planting box unpacked and the caster wheels set up in each of the four corners, it's time to fill the box with growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. You will need 1.5 cubic feet of growing media. This can be purchased from a gardening store or online. You can also make your own growing media by mixing different types of soil and adding organic matter such as compost or manure. The type of growing media you choose will depend on the plants you want to grow and the climate you live in.When it comes to fertilizer, you can use a dry, granular fertilizer or plant food for vegetables. Again, the type of fertilizer you choose will depend on the plants you want to grow and the climate you live in. Be sure to follow the instructions on the fertilizer package for how much to use and how to apply it.After you have added the growing media and fertilizer to the planting box, you will need to mix them together thoroughly. Use your hands or a garden trowel to mix the ingredients until they are fully combined. This will ensure that the fertilizer is evenly distributed throughout the growing media, giving your plants the nutrients they need to thrive.Once the growing media and fertilizer are mixed, you are ready to plant your seeds or seedlings. Place them according to the instructions that came with your planting box, or consult a gardening guide to determine the proper spacing for your particular plants. Cover the seeds or seedlings with a thin layer of growing media and water them gently.With the plants in place, finish setting up your patio picker by adding the aeration screen and water tube, following the interior placement markings. The aeration screen will provide a sufficient amount of air to the plant roots, while the water tube will allow you to easily water your plants without disturbing their roots.Plant seeds or seedlings and place with the woven mulch cover Now that you have assembled your City Picker planter, you can start planting your seeds or seedlings. First, fill your box with 1.5 cubic feet of growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. You can use small or large seedlings. Place your seeds or seedlings in the box, following the seedling placement instructions provided by Emsco. Once your seeds or seedlings are in place, cover them with the woven mulch cover. The mulch cover will help prevent weed growth, and it can be used to tailor your growing conditions to your plants' needs. For example, the black side of the cover absorbs heat and warms the soil, while the white side deflects light and keeps the soil cooler. You can also purchase a red mulch cover, which can help improve tomato yield.Frequently asked questions First, unpack your planting box and place the caster wheels in the four corners. Then, place the aeration screen into the planting box, following the interior placement markings. The rounded indentation is where you insert the water tube. Finally, fill your box with 1.5 cubic feet of growing media and the fertilizer of your choice. The Patio Picker planter kit includes a 24 x 20-inch grow box and a woven, drawstring-closure polypropylene mulch cover. The kit also comes with castor wheels and an aeration screen. The Patio Picker planter is self-contained and has a 2-gallon water reserve with drainage holes to prevent over-watering. The planter is also portable and can be easily moved around with the built-in casters. City Picker A few years back, a friend raved about an Earth Box, a self-contained planting system for vegetables. I'm not sure if they were hard to come by at the time, but I never stumbled across one in any of the garden centers I frequent, or I simply didn't take the time to look. Our raised beds spread out across the back of our house in past years, but they were too close together making it challenging to get around them without getting your foot caught between them. When we refurbished our back yard this winter, we widened the path in front of the beds, to make room for our summer pumpkin vines. We added gravel, since part of that area isn't easily plant-able due to pipes, irrigation shut off valves, the electric box, etc. It was a great place for a chair in the cooler months, with the sun reflecting heat off the side of the house. Hoping to capture that trapped heat for our tomatoes this summer, I went looking for an Earth Box. What I found instead was a City Picker, virtually identical in every way, but almost double in width. City Picker's are perfect for urban gardeners, since they are a fully contained system in a portable box. The planting box comes with casters, a ventilation tray, a watering tube and plastic mulch. You can roll it around your patio or deck to maximize sun, while at the same time containing the mess. No need to worry about watering your downstairs neighbor! Here is our setup: 1.5 CU FT. Organic Potting Mix Dolomite Lime and Fertilizer Fully assembled City Picker Fill with potting mix to about two inches below the topAdd a thin layer of Dolomite Organic Fertilizer-Make a two-inch trough in the center of the boxAdd three cups of organic fertilizer Grow more with less - less time,less workYou will need:Mulch CoverWater Fill TubeAeration ScreenCastersCity Pickers Growing BoxCity Pickers Kit contains:INSTRUCTIONS & PLANTING GUIDESSeeds or SeedlingsScissors or Utility KnifePotting SoilLiquid or PowderFertilizerGrow more with less - less time, less workINSTRUCTIONS & PLANTING GUIDE City Pickers Kit contains: You will need: Mulch Cover Seeds or Seedlings Aeration Screen Water Fill Tube Potting Soil Scissors or Utility Knife City Pickers Growing Box Casters Liquid or Powder FertilizerLet's get started! know your terms - shop smart Growing Media / Potting "Mix" (NOT Potting "Soil") 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.STEP 1 Plan ahead Determine what type and how many plants you need. Gather materials • your City 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 PLACEMENTSeedlingFertilizerWater fill tube1 Row2 Rows3 RowsSTEP 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 2 - Place screen, fill tube and casters into your City 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 City Pickers box.STEP 3 - Pack open corners of the City 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 repleats the water like a dry sponge.Page 3Tips 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."Let's get started" know your terms - shop smartGrowing 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 City 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 City 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 City 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. Liquid or PowderFertilizerPotting SoilFLOWERS 10 - 12VEGETABLESBeans, bush - 10Beans, pole - 20Beets - 12Broccoli - 8Brussels Sprouts - 8Cabbage - 8Carrots - 20Cucumbers - 5/6Cauliflower - 8Celery - 8Eggplant - 2/3Garlic - 20Herbs - 8 Leeks - 10Lettuce - 10Melons - 5Okra - 10Plant SelectionChoose your favorites or try something new. Seedlings available at your local garden center or nursery will grow in your City 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 City 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.)Onions - 12/14Peas - 20Peppers - 6Radishes - 20 Spinach - 12/14Squash - 5/5Strawberries - 8Tomatoes - 2/3Turnips - 12/14 Page 4STEP 6 - Add moist potting mix until level with the top of your City 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 City Pickers box. STEP 7 - Create a 2" trough for the fertilizer. To determine location of plant and fertilizer trough, refer to City 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 City Pickers box.STEP 10 - Secure mulch cover and cut "X"s in the mulch cover for fill tube and plants. Again, refer to City 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.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 City Pickers box. Simply add water every few days for young plants. Add water at least once every day as your plants mature.P.O. Box 151, Girard, PA 16417814-774-3137 • 1-800-458-0839Fax: 814-774-3463 e-mail: eginfo@emscogroup.com©2010 Emsco Group D 215 For more information on this or other EMSCO products, contact your sales representative or call the national sales oce at 1.800.458.0839NOTE: Above is an example. Refer to the placement chart for your type of plant.