



garden4me

BRINGING THE JOY OF GARDENING TO EVERYBODY

Spring gardening in your garden4me raised planter

Spring is on its way and now that the days are getting longer, it's a good time to get busy thinking about what you want to grow in your planter – ordering plants, sowing seeds, cutting back winter plants and generally preparing for new planting.

And did you know that by late April the sun is as high in the sky as in mid-August, so it is possible to reach temperatures of 27F (80F). But the seas around us warm up more slowly and when a north wind blows, snow showers and night frosts are likely. Whilst sowing and planting out can begin - there is still the threat of low temperatures at night but don't forget the double wall of your garden4me raised planter though will protect roots from any surprise late frosts.

Handy seasonal tips

Plug plants are an ideal way to fill your planter with beautiful flowers and this is the ideal month to get these ordered. There are plenty of companies out there who will deliver to your door – just browse their catalogues for inspiration. They're sent at just the right time for planting, and with step by step instructions.

If you saved your begonia tubers then these will start to produce new leaves. As leaves appear, pot them up individually.

Finish cutting back any dead foliage left on your perennials and grasses to make way for new growth.

This is a good time to top up your raised planter with fresh compost. If your planter is full, remove the top 5cm of old compost and replace with new. To get the best from your raised planter always use a good quality compost, and either add some slow release fertiliser or a

balanced liquid feed every two to four weeks – liquid feed can be added direct into the self-watering reservoir.

Sow hardy annuals, such as sunflowers, calendula, poppy, love-in-a-mist, larkspur, nasturtium, alyssum and cornflower, straight into your raised garden.

Plant herbaceous perennials such as Geranium and oriental poppies. Check that the plants you buy have strong, green shoots.



Plant summer flowering bulbs such as Gladioli and Lilies to fill your planter with a beautiful display of flowers.

Don't forget the old saying when planting up your display 'thrillers, fillers and spillers' – so make sure you plant up around the sides of the container as this will give more impact. And don't forget to keep taking off dead flowers during the year and you'll get more and more growing back.

Trim lavender plants now, cutting off any old flower heads and about 2.5cm (1 inch) of the current year's growth.

Hostas can be part of a lovely display in your raised garden – now is the time to divide them as they come into growth. Hostas are extremely hardy and resilient and will thrive in shade – they are easy to grow and are available in a wide range of leaf colours, sizes and shapes. Moisture is essential so the self-watering reservoir in your garden4me raised planter will ensure they stay hydrated. Slugs and snails are attracted to these plants but the raised design deters pests and will keep your plants healthy.

Vegetables

Planting vegetables in a garden4me raised planter is a versatile way of growing edible crops in the garden, particularly where space is limited – and is an easy way to enjoy fresh food without the hassles of pulling weeds or tilling the soil. Plus you have the added bonus of its unique self-watering reservoir so your plants will stay hydrated.

To maximize your growing space plant low-growers and tall climbers together in your raised planter. The climbers will eagerly scramble up a trellis, while the small plants spread around their base. Fertilizer is especially important when you're growing vegetables – the garden4me planter has a deep growing bed but you are still packing a lot of plants into a small space so they will need added nutrients – an option is to add this as a liquid feed direct into the reservoir.



Plant onion and garlic sets – the double-walled design of your planter means your plants are protected and will promote growth.

If you're growing vegetables from seed then sow these now – carrots, radishes and lettuce could be a good mix. And don't forget you can buy one of our garden4me polytunnel kits to protect your crops in this early growing stage – available on our website.

And if you prefer a hassle free start to your crop then don't forget you can also buy vegetable plants.

The double wall of your raised planter will mean the compost is warm enough to sow direct outside. Chillies, sweet peppers, salad leaves, chard - are all good additions to your planter and will provide a colourful crop. Fill in gaps with sun-loving herbs such as basil or coriander, or plant nasturtiums to trail over the sides - their bright flowers, peppery leaves and young green seedpods are all edible as well as decorative.

Brassicas need to be under way in Spring. Kale, Brussels sprouts and purple sprouting broccoli all fare best when sown direct – use the garden4me growing pockets to sow seeds in each section which will help as you can sow just enough to fill each pocket.

Tomatoes are ideal for your raised planter – and now is the time to plant purchased plants. The first and foremost need of tomatoes is a constant supply of water that keeps the compost moist which they will get from the in-built reservoir without becoming waterlogged. Some suggestions for small-fruited bush varieties are 'Tumbling Tom Red', 'Tumbling Tom Yellow' and 'Hundreds and Thousands' – you should be able to find these at your local garden centre.



Don't forget ...

Solitary bees are incredible pollinators and in decline. The problem is loss of habitat. Bees will be emerging from their winter homes and looking for new nesting sites soon so you can help by providing a garden bee hotel – make your own with bundled bamboo stems or buy one ready made from your local garden centre.



Add a bee hotel to give shelter to solitary bees

Did you know?

You can grow herbaceous perennials in your planter and now is an ideal time to plant them. If you have any already established then lift and divide now to improve their vigour and create new plants. Campanula, hardy geraniums and catmint are just a few suggestions that will thrive in your raised garden.