



garden4me

BRINGING THE JOY OF GARDENING TO EVERYBODY

Summer gardening in your garden4me raised planter

It's now glorious summer and a busy season in the garden – days are long and flowers and vegetables should be lush and green with new growth.

In hot weather the single most important thing you can do in the garden is keep the plants well watered – for garden4me customers gardening in one of our planters this isn't a problem as the 20 litre built-in reservoir will keep plants fully hydrated even during the hottest spells – and without the fear of waterlogging as plants will take up just what they need. Don't forget a liquid feed can be added to the reservoir to keep plants fed and healthy.

And summer is traditionally holiday-time. If you're gardening in one of our raised planters then this won't be an issue for you as the in-built reservoir will last for a few weeks - so you can go on holiday knowing your plants will stay hydrated and healthy – and your friends and family won't need to keep popping in to do the watering!

Handy seasonal tips

If any of your plants have become leggy or mis-shapen, simply trim the excess off - this will encourage bushy growth.

Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms.

Make sure you that feed your plants at this time of year – this is easy to do in a garden4me raised planter as a liquid feed can be added to the reservoir.

Summer can still throw out some weather surprises so make sure tall plants are well supported in case of any stormy weather.

Some cottage garden classics such hardy geraniums, delphiniums and lupins have the ability to re-bloom – so cut them back hard now, add some liquid feed, and you'll quickly get a fresh flush of leaves and a second flowering display.



Give lavender plants a light trim all over as soon as the flowers have died down. Lavenders don't like being pruned back into dead wood, so you need to keep them trim and neat with an annual going over. Take off just an inch or so of this year's growth, to stimulate bushing out from below.

A lovely flower for August is agapanthus and perfect for growing in our raised planters - they can drink up all the water they need from the reservoir without getting waterlogged.

Vegetables & Fruit

Keep sowing rows of quick-growing salad crops such as spring onions, radishes and lettuces for a constant supply of crunchy salads.

Our planters are ideal for growing strawberries – by growing them off the ground you're really reducing the risk of slugs and other pests! And remember, the more you pick, the more will grow, so harvest regularly. If you end up with too many, why not preserve them so you can enjoy the taste of summer later in the year. Nothing compares to the taste of home grown strawberry jam!

Once strawberries are over cut off old and tired foliage - lift rooted runners and transplant them to new beds or pots to make new plants.

If you're growing courgettes, radishes, carrots, mangetout and potatoes then harvest these when they are little and tender. They are far better and tastier than they will be when they reach "shop size". And don't forget if you're growing carrots then with the garden4me raised planter standing at over 70cm from the ground, the threat of invasion by Carrot Fly is diminished significantly.

Tomatoes are really easy to grow in garden4me raised planters – the reservoir keeps these thirsty plants watered continuously without them being waterlogged – remember to add a tomato fertiliser to the reservoir to keep them fed and produce good sized tasty fruits. Remove leaves lower down the plant to help with air circulation. To improve pollination just tap the flowers.



‘Cut and come again’ salad leaves are ideal to grow in your planter – and perfect for a salad. The compost in the planter stays well drained which salad leaves like – and at the same time they get a constant supply of all the water they need from the built-in reservoir.

It is best to harvest leaves in the morning when they are at their freshest. Try to only harvest what you need for each day as baby leaves can wilt quickly. If you need to store them, dampen leaves with tap water and put them in a plastic bag in the salad compartment of the fridge.



Did you know?

Did you know our raised planters are perfect for creating your own herb garden? Keep by your back door and enjoy all year round. By using the growing pockets, you can contain those herbs with rigorous roots – and the built-in reservoir keeps them hydrated but not waterlogged as they're drinking up just what they need – rather than sitting in wet compost. And your herbs will grow quickly as the double walled construction promotes growth.

Pick herbs in the morning before their essential oils are released by the heat of the day. These can be dried by tying into small bundles and hanging upside down in a warm place. Once dry, take off the leaves and store in jars. Alternatively, store herbs by freezing into ice cube trays. This works particularly well for mint, basil and parsley. Check our factsheet on 'creating a herb garden' for more details.



Towards the end of summer is an ideal time to expand your stock of herb plants. Take cuttings of woody herbs such as rosemary, sage and mint – just put cuttings in moist, well-drained potting compost. And established clumps of chives can be divided now.

The essential oils in lavender are at their most potent when the flashes of the petals are only just showing, and so this is the time to pick them for culinary use or for the making of lavender pillows. Hang small bunches in a dark, airy place to dry them for storage.