



# Ultimate Backyard Gardener Bundle

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Your kit comes with everything you need to start and up-pot seedlings for the ultimate garden!

- (60) 6 Cell Plug Inserts
- (5) 1020 2.5" Trays No Holes
- (5) 1020 6" Domes
- (90) 3.3" Pots
- (5) Insert Trays for 3.3" Pots

Some seedlings will go directly from the cell trays out into your garden. Smaller plants and those that are cold hardy, think brassicas and snapdragons, can be planted out once they have a few sets of true leaves and will tolerate light frosts.

Heat-loving crops like tomatoes and peppers should be up-potted into your 3.3 inch pots to give them extra time indoors. This also allows you to plant earlier and have large transplants ready to go for after your last frost date.

Outlined below are the simple steps to best fill your trays. We also have this handy video on using [our trays for seed starting](#) that includes the 6-cell trays.

Most garden seeds do well with a planted depth of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch. Following the instructions below will give you trays set for this planting depth.

For larger seeds, you will fill the 6-cell trays a little over halfway before seeding. For very small seeds, you may only lightly cover them with soil or surface sow; as such, you can add a little more soil after pressing down to get near the top of the tray. Read the sowing instructions on your seed packet or supplier's website for optimal planting depth.

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## Planting in your 6-cell trays

- Start with your potting soil mix in a tub that allows you to place the tray on top of the soil with room around it.
- Fill the tray with soil
- Clear off the extra
- Press the soil down with the second tray
- Place in your deep 1020 tray
- Plant your seeds and cover with soil
- Water thoroughly
- Cover with your humidity dome

The 1020 trays will protect surfaces and allow you to bottom water your seedlings once they have sprouted. Particularly with shallowly planted seeds, it is usually best to water gently from above until the seeds sprout. With the humidity dome in place, it is unusual to need to water more than once after planting.

Once the majority of your seeds have sprouted, remove the humidity dome to avoid fungal issues. Or move out each 6-cell tray to an uncovered tray once it has sprouted.

The great thing about the individual 6-cell trays is that they allow you to remove and harden off the seedlings before transplanting as each type is ready.

## Up-potting into 3.3" Pots

Depending on the variety, most crops should be up-potted once they are around 2-3 inches tall. If you are new to this process and want to learn more, we have an in-depth [article on transplanting and up-potting available here.](#)

Up-Potting Procedure:

1. **Water the Plant:** Water the plant very lightly a few hours before up-potting to reduce root stress.
2. **Remove the Plant:** Gently guide the plant from its cell by pressing up from the bottom through the hole. If your fingers are too big for the hole, use a flat-topped dowel or marker.

**PRO-TIP:** Watering heavily 24 hours before transplant will help keep the soil intact while pulling out of the cells. Be sure to pour off any standing water from your bottom trays after a few hours so the soil isn't sodden.

3. **Prune the Roots:** Examine the root ball. If you notice any dead or rotting roots, prune them off.
4. **Prepare the New Pot:** Add some moist potting mix to the new pot and place the plant inside. The plant should sit at the same depth as in the previous pot. Fill around the plant with more soil, pressing gently to remove air pockets.

### **Aftercare for transplanted plants:**

1. **Water Thoroughly:** After repotting, water the plant thoroughly to help the soil settle around the roots.
2. **Provide Rest:** Keep the plant in a quiet, shaded area for a few days after repotting to help it recover from the shock of being moved. If growing indoors. Keep them on the same light and heat schedule while they recover.
3. **Monitor the Plant:** Monitor your plant for a few days after repotting to check for signs of stress. Some wilting or leaf drop is normal, but prolonged symptoms could indicate a problem.
4. **Resume Care:** Once the plant has settled into its new pot, resume your normal care routine.

Before planting outdoors, allow for 1-2 weeks of hardening off. This allows your new plants to become accustomed to the stresses of outdoor living before being stressed by the transplanting process.

### Using your kit for cuttings

These trays can be used for small cuttings or clones. Once you have your hard or softwood cuttings ready. Very small cuttings can be done in the 6-cell. Larger cuttings like fig trees should go directly into the 3.3 inch pots.

- Fill your trays as outlined above
- Use a dowel or pencil to poke a hole in the packed soil a little larger than your stem cutting.
- Dip your cuttings in coconut water or honey to protect them.
- Place a cutting in each hole and gently back fill or firm the soil around each stem.
- Cover with a humidity dome.
- Use bottom watering to keep the soil moist but don't leave standing water in the tray.
- Use the vents in the humidity dome to maintain a nice balance of even moisture and airflow until your cuttings root.