

FLOWER SAC CARE

A lovely innovation at Plant World. A polyethylene tube, 6" in diameter and 24"-30" long, planted to provide blossom from top to bottom. Hang them on your patio, balcony, or porch, lay them on top off a fence, around your pool, or as a sidewalk.

WATER

The smaller the container, the more frequent the watering. Uneven moisture levels will not be satisfactory. Flower sacs in windy, sunny locations will dry out rapidly. Severe drying out or too frequent watering should be avoided. The flower sacs will probably require water every other day, particularly if they are in a warm breezy location. Water will start to run through the sac and out the bottom very quickly, especially if the soil is dry. This is because of the flexible sides of the container and a certain amount of shrinkage of the soil, that will occur when it dries out. These two factors in combination may create a slight gap between the soil ball and the flower sac itself, allowing the water to run thru to the bottom rapidly.

*DO NOT be fooled into thinking the soil is fully wetted as soon as water drains out the bottom. Keep applying water in a gentle stream for a minute or so. Then repeat the watering process again once more in 3 or 4 minutes. Lift up gently on the flower sac. If it is fully watered it will feel quite heavy. Allow the sac to dry out, (2 - 4 days usually depending on location) until it feels a bit lighter, or the soil is quite dry on the top 1" or so.

FERTILIZING

Just as the limited amount of soil in relation to plant material depletes the soil moisture, it also quickly uses any reserve nutrition. Frequent fertilizing of container planters is an absolute necessity if the container is to be a pleasing and enjoyable project. The best way to maintain good nutritional levels is by applying a solution of water-soluble fertilizer each week, after watering.

HOW DOES FERTILIZER WORK?

Fertilizer provides plants with the nutrients to produce food and steps up the growth process given the proper cultural conditions. Most fertilizers contain 3 elements which work in the following way to produce growth.

NITROGEN: Promotes good green color, steps up the production of chlorophyll - the secret to a green, lush appearance.

POTASH: Helps stem growth, initiates buds, gives flowers good growth.

PHOSPHORUS: Encourages good root growth and, therefore, good overall growth.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Use a water-soluble fertilizer every 2 or 3 weeks, at recommended dosage. **DO NOT INCREASE DOSAGE.** Plant Products 20-20-20 or Rx 15 are excellent after watering. Another excellent product that provides long term nutrient is Plant Products 14-14-14 granules, known as "Nutricote" in the industry. This fertilizer provides nutrients in a slow release fashion for the entire season. We use this product on all the container stock we grow, even our display window boxes, barrels and hanging baskets, in addition to supplementary feedings of water soluble fertilizer. Try it it really works!

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Remove spent blossoms and diseased or injured leaves at once, they are ideal areas for the incubation of disease and insects. If a plant or plants become overgrown, spindly or unsightly, prune it back with a knife, scissors or shears. Some varieties such as petunias for example, will reward you with fuller plants and more blossom when pruned once or twice a season. If one side of the container is getting too much light or shade, turn it, if possible.

The small effort required to follow these instructions will bring you a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction.