

Keeping your Containers Beautiful All Summer

Annual containers add instant beauty to any deck or patio, providing a splash of colour all summer long. Though most annuals love the sun, our intense summer heat can make your containers appear less than perfect.

Here are some tips on keeping your pots looking great right up until fall:

1. Water consistently. In the heat of the summer, smaller containers may need watering up to twice a day. Use your fingers to test the soil – if the soil is dry, water soon. Prolonged dryness can cause irreparable damage.

2. Remember to feed your plants. Plants starved from nutrition will dwindle rapidly, quickly losing blooms and lacking color in their foliage. The soilless mixes often used in containers contain very little nutrients. Use an all-purpose, water diluted mixture of 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 at least once per week - always be sure soil is moist prior to feeding. For an organic fertilizer option, use slow release **Off the Vine** or **Bloom Booster Liquid Kelp**.

3. Annuals often require “deadheading” - remove spent flowers when they brown or shrivel. This will encourage rapid development of new, vibrant blooms. If the plant is getting leggy, do not hesitate to shear it back. This encourages healthy new growth.

4. Rotate your pots or containers to ensure all sides receive the same light exposure.

5. If you are going away, arrange to have your pots watered by a reliable source. Make watering easier for your helpers by condensing your planters in one spot, to ensure none are missed.



Away for a couple of days?

Simply place your pots in the shade, in a shallow pan of water - children's swimming pools work great for numerous pots.

See our garden tip on “Watering While You Are Away”.



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