

Garden Plants – Ordering Information

❖ We endeavor to provide healthy and modestly priced plants for your garden.

- Our planting system keeps the plant life cycle and growing conditions as natural as possible. The stresses and shocks common with standard potted plants have been reduced or eliminated.
 - Water retention for a potted plant is critical. The correct volume of high quality potting soil is needed to provide for the plant's requirements during its most important growing periods.
 - A three-inch pot contains 27 cubic inches of potting soil. This is more than enough potting soil for the six to eight weeks the plants are growing, before you set them out in the garden.
 - The typical small multi-cell containers offer only 25% of the potting soil volume per plant. As the plant matures it falls into a distressing dry and wet watering cycle that makes them weak.
 - The majority of our seeds are started in the pots and trays you receive. This eliminates one or two transplanting shocks and the recovery period after each. So when you go to transplant these in your garden, they are strong juveniles, with a good root system, and this is their only transplant shock.
 - The start of any plant is the most important time in its life. The plant's future is determined by its beginning.
 - Organic, open-pollinated seeds are started in Biodynamic potting soil, on a BD planting cycle and treated with BD preparations, teas and sprays. Garden pests are nature's cleanup crews. A healthy plant is the best way to fight off pests and if we rotate crops throughout the seasons, the pest populations stay low and are no real threat.

❖ Our planting system provides for production of the most produce within a small manageable garden. **3" x 3" x 3" deep pots (recyclable) and 5" x 20" x 3" deep cardboard trays are the two plant containers we use.**

- **Tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, cucumbers, broccoli and eggplant** are delivered with two plants per 3" pot. The plants can be planted as a whole and trained apart or divided in half and planted in separate holes.
- **Lettuce, Asian greens, herbs, hardy greens, asparagus, rhubarb and spear onions** are delivered with four to five plants per 3" pot. These plants should be divided in half and planted in separate holes with the correct spacing between.
 - Each planting spot has two plants. The outside leaves can be harvested as the plant matures. When the two plants are the size of a large single plant, the larger of the two plants should be harvested. The remaining plant will fill out quickly. If this is a lettuce plant, give it a hair cut when it reaches full size. Cut straight across, 1 1/2" above the stem. Three to four side shoots will form a crown, harvest as tender heads.
- **Carrots, daikon radish, leeks, green onions, asparagus and rhubarb** are delivered in 5" x 20" x 3" deep cardboard trays. These trays have four 20" rows. The plants in each row are spaced for direct transplanting as a whole row into a trough in the garden. Each tray will plant 6 1/2 feet.
 - Trays can be planted with two different plants. (Two different varieties or two different types)
 - For two dollars extra, all four rows could be different.

❖ You select the plants you wish to grow from a large seasonal list, with many old and new varieties. You choose what you would like to plant and a select grower does the rest. This way, the growers can offer a much larger selection.

- This is a Fair Trade transaction. A grower is supported by your actions and you are supported by theirs.

❖ Direct Order plants are sold in Half Flat sizes.

- Nine 3" pots of your selection make a Half Flat. This is 18 to 36 plants.
- One 5" x 20" tray makes a Half Flat. This is 48 to 64 plants.

❖ **Cost: A Direct Ordered - Half Flat is \$20.00**

- At this price a tomato plant would cost \$1.11, a lettuce would cost \$0.56 and a leek would be \$0.42.
- **Seniors, community gardeners, churches, schools and other groups could receive a 10% discount.**
- **Add \$.50 for each 3" pot and \$2.00 for each row of asparagus and rhubarb. These seeds cost more.**

❖ **Pick Up** – Direct-ordered plants can be picked up at the growers, on the bi-monthly in-town pick-up days or a large order can be delivered direct to you. **The Order Forms and Schedules contain the Pick-Up Info.**