

SUSTAINABLE

Care Sheet · www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com · Ludlow, Massachusetts

Nourish The Soil...

You know you are getting a quality plant when you buy one of our Liberty selections, but did you know you are getting a premium soil amendment as well?

Our special coco fiber soil holds water better than typical potting soil and has time-release fertilizer built right in, so it feeds your soil as well as your plant. Liberty plantable pots break down to nourish the soil, too. When you take your plants up at the end of the season, leave the pot remnants in the garden, grab your shovel, and turn the Liberty pots and soil right back into the garden!

Nourish The Soul!

Gardening should make you feel good—isn't that why you do it? By choosing beautiful Liberty plants in eco-friendly pots with coco fiber soil you are creating renewable energy, conserving water, and saving money. That's a pretty sweet deal for you *and* the environment—enough to make any home gardener smile!

Plantable Garden Pots

You may have noticed that some of our pots look a little different. These are eco-friendly fiber pots that are *plantable* and *compostable*. You can plant the entire pot in the garden and it will eventually break down to become part of the soil. Roots easily grow through the porous fiber that's made from recycled newspaper, and planting in the pot eliminates the risk of transplant shock.



Save Time And Energy With Easy Cleanup

Plantable pots make cleanup easy because they take most of the trash out of the equation. Even if you prefer to take your plants out of the pots when planting, you can simply throw the plantable fiber pots in the compost bin to break down later. Easy cleanup allows you to conserve your own energy for other fun summer activities while creating renewable soil energy to put toward next year's garden!



A Lighter Footprint

Did you know that the mere act of tending your home garden is making a positive impact on sustainability? All of your beautiful plants engage in photosynthesis on a daily basis, removing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere and replacing it with much needed oxygen.

Keeping It Local

If you grow your own vegetables you're making even more of an impact. Homegrown produce does not have to travel to the grocery store, and to your plate, via a truck or other vehicle. You can also go pesticide-free! Growing your own herbs can save even more trips to the store.

Pollinator Protection

We need pollinators, particularly honey bees. By some estimates they are responsible for one in every three bites of food we eat on this planet. Planting nectar-rich flowers or shrubs creates a safe habitat for these beneficial insects. Some to try: Foxglove, Echinacea, Marigold—and many more. Also, let some of your herbs flower. Bees love Chives, Thyme, Lavender, and Oregano!

Handling Plantable Pots

Our plantable pots are made to break down in the soil, but the process starts after they've been in the soil for awhile. They are stiff and sturdy like a heavy cardboard box and should make the trip from the store to your garden with no problem. Still, rainy weather or excessive moisture can have an effect, so it's a good idea to lift a plantable pot with two hands to balance the weight. Lift gently, and if you need to ease the pot out of a tray try rocking it back and forth instead of pulling with just two fingers.

Leave The Rim Above The Soil

If you grow Tomatoes you know they are very thirsty plants, so when planting a Tomato in the pot, leave the rim above the soil. It allows water to pool up where it is needed, conserving a valuable resource and saving on your water bill. This technique also prevents cutworms from attacking the Tomato plant, if that is a problem for you. We are using Tomatoes as an example; if you *do not* want water to pool up around a plant's root simply cut or tear off the rim of the pot when planting, or plant so that the pot is below the soil level.

Should I Cut The Bottom From The Pot?

Some gardeners like to remove the bottom from the pot when planting. That's fine but it's not necessary, as the roots should have no trouble growing right through the bottom of the pot. If you do decide to remove the bottom or tear the rim from a plantable fiber pot, remember to throw the unused pieces in the compost bin!

