



Amethyst Horticulture Self Watering Containers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for purchasing our floral containers, all of the containers are very straightforward to plant and maintain, below you will find some simple guidance.

COSMOPOLITAN CUBES

The cubes have been supplied, with a liner which will need to be replaced for the next season. We have trialled and used a number of different materials for the liners, and have found burlap (which is biodegradable) very effective.

Assembly

Single Cube:

If you have ordered single cubes all you need to do is add the liner fill with high quality growing medium and plant.

Double Cubes:

If you have ordered double cubes, they will be supplied in pairs, which should not be separated. The cubes are connected by a pipe that runs from the overflow on the bottom of the top unit, and then attaches to the reservoir mound in the centre (inside) of the bottom cube. We would recommend that you mark the cubes so that in future years you can easily recognise which cube has to go on the bottom. It is important because only the overflow on the top cube has been drilled, so when the reservoir on the top cube is full it runs through the overflow down the pipe and fills the reservoir on the bottom cube. If the cubes are reversed the watering system will not work.

When stacked and filled with growing medium the weight is enough to hold the stacked cubes steady. However, we would also recommend that you cable tie the units together. You will notice 4 holes through the base of the cube, one on each side. On the top cube thread the cable tie through the hole and then around the top rim of the cube below.

It is possible to use cubes which have been previously double stacked as singles. You will need however, to plug or seal the hole in the base of the reservoir (underneath the cube) on the bottom cube.



Planting

On the floor of the cube are 4 removable black cylinders. These should be removed and tightly packed with moist growing medium. After packing replace the cylinders which will act as the wicking mechanism to introduce moisture to the soil in the cube. Make sure the growing medium, liner, and plant plugs are moist prior to planting.

The addition of a water retention product may prove beneficial in helping the plants to become established, (especially with impatiens), and may further reduce watering requirements.

The choice of growing stock will depend upon final placement of the cubes. We would recommend you consult with a local horticultural expert before planting. In the UK we have enjoyed tremendous success with impatiens (compact variety) and trailing geraniums. Your geographic location will determine which colourful annual will give you the longest growing season.

Seedling plugs should be planted through the liner no more than 4 - 5 per column. Start planting as close to the top and bottom corners as possible. Then stagger the remaining seedlings allowing each plug as much space as possible. (See photograph above) When planting, make sure that the seedling plugs are firmed down and covered sufficiently with soil.

Watering cubes in the nursery

For the first week or two you must make sure that the liner remains moist. Until the plants are established you should water from the top. The reservoir will not be effective until the root system is established after approx 3 weeks.

Watering Cubes after placement

There is a filling hole for the reservoir on each of the four corners. Water may be added through any of the four holes. On the first filling as the reservoir is large, it may take a few minutes to fill. We would also recommend you water the plants on the top of the cube.

Watering/reservoir filling requirements will vary depending upon placement of cube and choice of plants. For the first season we would recommend you monitor soil moisture to ensure optimum efficiency. Once established you should not be surprised if the system requires watering as little as every 4 - 5 days.

Watering Double Stacked Cubes

Double cubes are watered in the same way as the singles, simply use a filling hole in one of the corners of the upper cube. When the reservoir at the top is full it will drain down to fill the bottom reservoir, continue filling until the water is over flowing.

Contact us

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Converting Single to Double Stacked Cubes:

Converting a single Cube to a Double Stacked configuration requires a few easy steps.

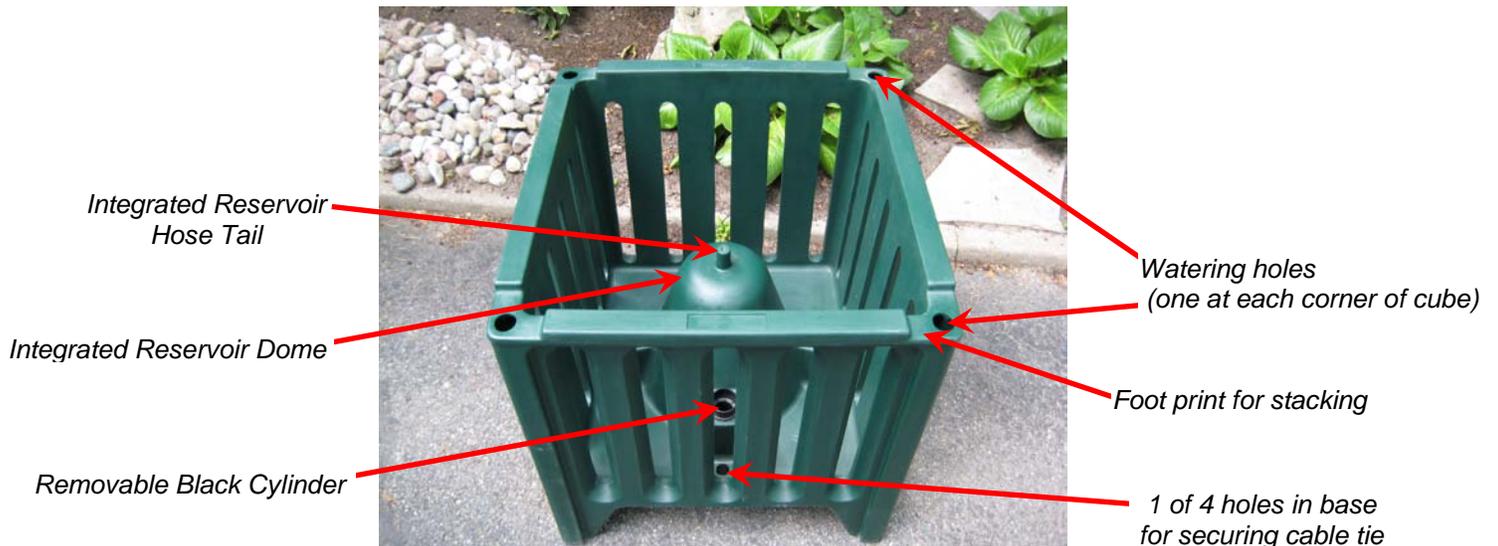


Fig.1 Empty Cube

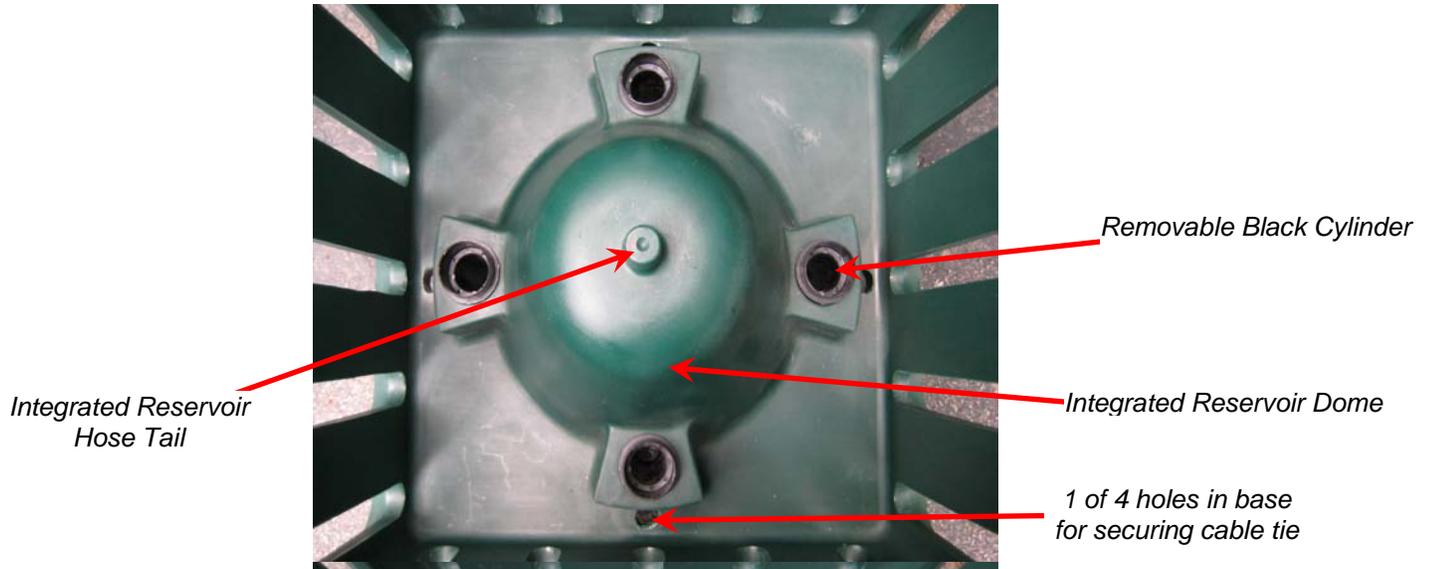


Fig2. Empty Cube – Above View

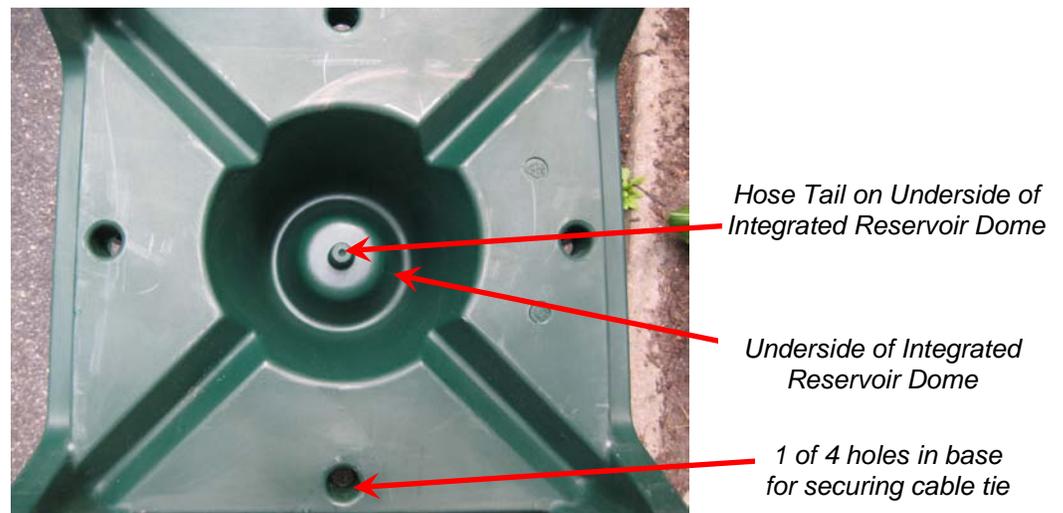


Fig3. Empty Cube – Underside View

- 1) On the Cube chosen as the “LOWER” unit, drill a hole with a 5/8” (16mm) bit into the top of the integrated reservoir hose tail. (see Fig 2.)
- 2) On the Cube chosen as the “UPPER” unit, drill a hole with a 5/8” (16mm) bit into the top of the hose tail on the underside of the integrated dome reservoir.
- 3) On the floor of each cube are **4 removable black cylinders**. These should be removed and **tightly packed** with moist growing medium. After packing replace the cylinders which will act as the wicking mechanism to introduce moisture to the soil in the cube. Make sure the growing medium, liner, and plant plugs are moist prior to planting.
- 4) Insert the cube liner into both units.
- 5) Attach approx 16" piece of flexible plumbing pipe with **1 inch** internal diameter, over the drilled hose tail in the lower cube. Ensure the pipe is securely inserted.
- 6) Fill the “LOWER” unit with high quality moist growing medium.
- 7) **Half** fill the “UPPER” unit with high quality moist growing medium.
- 8) Carefully stack the “UPPER” unit on top of the “LOWER” unit ensuring the feet of the “UPPER” unit are properly nested into the footprint (see Fig. 1) of the “LOWER” unit. (***Two*** people are strongly recommended for this procedure.)
- 9) Attach to the upper cube the top end of the 1 inch flexible plumbing pipe on to the pre drilled hose tail on the underside of the integrated dome reservoir. Ensure the pipe is securely inserted. This procedure must be achieved by reaching through the gap between the two cubes.
- 10) Fill the remainder of the “UPPER” unit with high quality moist growing medium.
- 11) We would recommend that you mark the cubes so that in future years you can easily recognise which cube has to go on the bottom. It is important because only the overflow of the underside of the integrated dome reservoir on the top cube has been drilled, so when the reservoir on the top cube is full, it runs through the overflow down the pipe and fills the reservoir on the bottom cube. If the cubes are reversed the watering system will not work.
- 12) When stacked and filled with growing medium the weight is enough to hold the stacked cubes steady. However, we would **strongly recommend** that you cable tie the units together. You will notice 4 holes through the base of the cube, one on each side. On the top cube thread the cable tie through the hole and then around the top rim of the cube below. (see figs. 1, 2, 3)
- 13) It is possible to use cubes which have been previously double stacked as singles. You will need however, to plug or seal the hole (duct tape would be adequate) of the hose tail (see fig. 2). Care should be taken at all times to be sure that growing medium is not allowed to fill the drilled hose tail.



Planting

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