HERBS · A BRIGHT PATIO POT CLOSE TO THE KITCHEN

Let's grow chives.

Allium schoenoprasum

This plan is for **Common onion chives**

Snip a few leaves. Finish dinner.

3-gallon pot **1 rooted clump**

Before you start

Choose a bright outdoor spot, and plan winter protection if keeping the pot through cold weather; exposed roots need more protection than garden roots.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 22, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

Sun or part shade

Choose a bright outdoor spot for steady leaf growth.

WATER

Regular moisture

Water as the surface dries; keep the roots out of standing water.

FEEDING

Light feeding

A gentle top-up supports new leaves after starter feed ends.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ One 3-gallon pot with drainage
- ✓ 1 nursery clump of common chives (Allium schoenoprasum)
- ✓ Fresh potting mix and clean scissors

THE SOIL

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US, feeds for up to 2 months)

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here's the plan.

A bright patio pot close to the kitchen. Start with **nursery clump**.

THE POT

3-gallon pot

Use a draining pot, about 10–12 inches wide.

HOW MANY

1 rooted clump

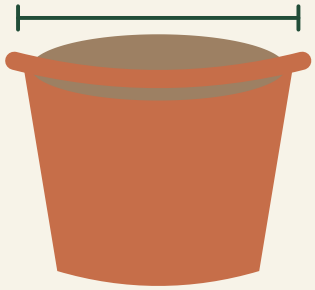
Buy common onion chives, with fine, round, hollow leaves.

THE CONTAINER

3-gallon pot

START WITH

1 rooted clump



Drainage holes



Illustration · not to scale

3-gallon pot · 1 rooted clump Use a draining pot, about 10–12 inches wide. Buy common onion chives, with fine, round, hollow leaves. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Pick common chives

Check the plant label. This guide is for the onion-flavored, round-leaved type.

02

Plant the clump

Set the root ball at its existing soil level in damp mix. Water thoroughly and allow the pot to drain.

03

Let new leaves grow

Check moisture each morning. Give the plant time to settle before taking a kitchen handful.

04

Snip above the soil

Once established and about 6 inches tall, cut a small bundle, leaving 1–2 inches above the mix. Leave the rest of a young clump growing.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

Other ways to start

Divide an established clump

In spring, lift a healthy clump and separate a rooted section containing several bulbs. Pot that section at its previous depth and water it in. Keep leaves and roots attached; a handful of cut supermarket leaves is not a rooted division.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Check each morning. Water when the top inch is dry, then let the pot finish draining.

FERTILIZER

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

AMOUNT

1½ teaspoons in 1 US gallon of water

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Every 4 weeks outdoors.

WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

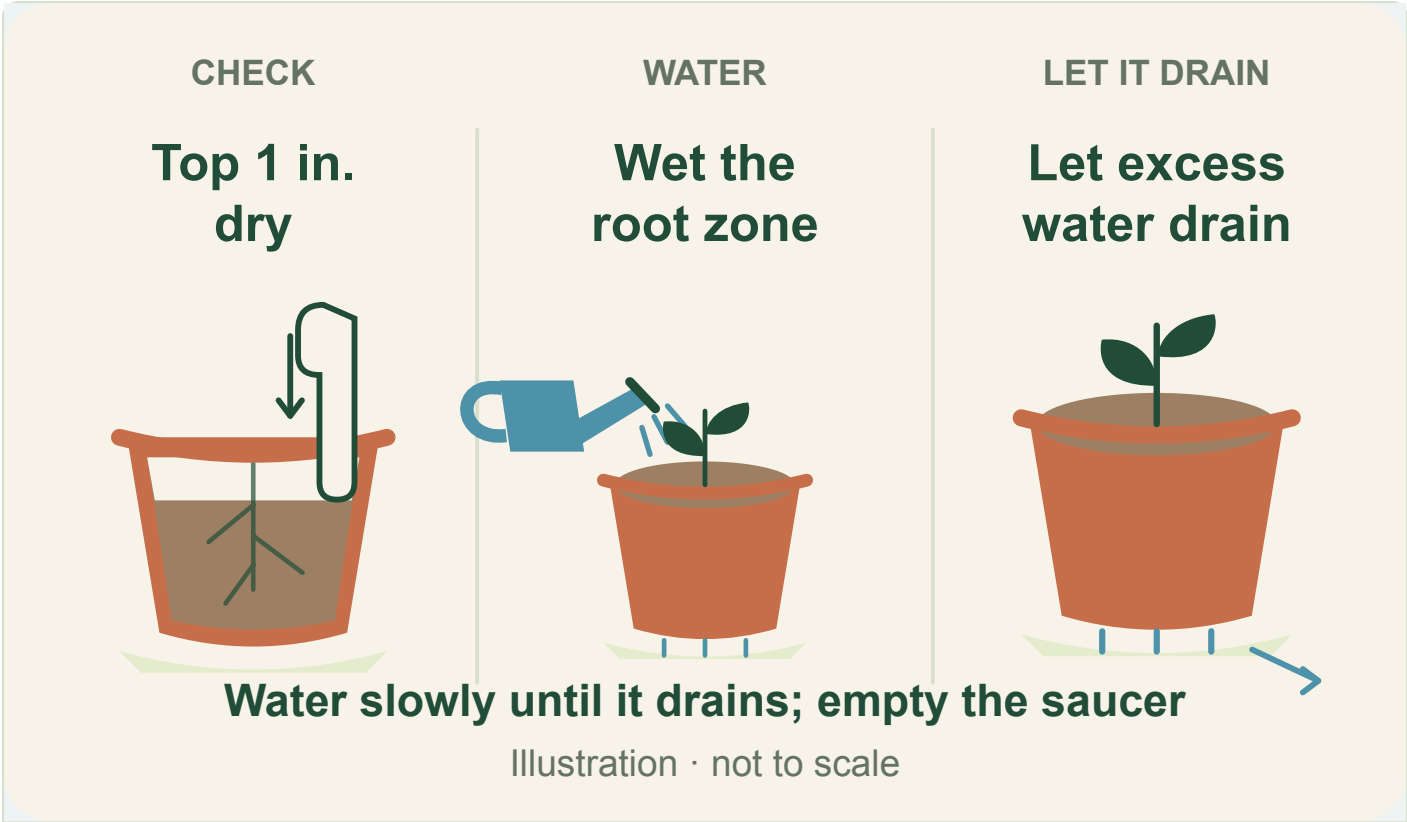
Wait until the fresh mix's starter feed is spent. Feed only during active growth; pause when growth stops.

Half the product's outdoor concentration; use this lighter herb recipe after starter feed ends.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check the top inch each morning. When it feels dry, water slowly until excess drains. Let the pot finish draining before putting it back in an outer planter. Dry spells can slow fresh leaf production even when the plant survives them.



Check before watering. Check each morning. Water when the top inch is dry, then let the pot finish draining. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Skip added fertilizer when planting into fresh enriched mix. After the starter nutrients are used up, a light feeding routine is enough during active growth.



1½ teaspoons in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on. Every 4 weeks outdoors. Wait until the fresh mix's starter feed is spent. Feed only during active growth; pause when growth stops. Original illustration; not to scale.



US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Miracle-Gro

Water Soluble All Purpose

24-8-16

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

A SPECIFIC US PRODUCT

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

Mix 1½ teaspoons of the US 24-8-16 product in 1 gallon of water. Apply at the roots every 4 weeks outdoors while new leaves are growing. This is half the outdoor label concentration, following University of Minnesota container-herb guidance. Skip dormant periods and do not stack it with another ongoing fertilizer.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Use the named US formulation. A different product or concentration needs different directions. The amount mixed is a batch, not a dose to pour into one pot.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

When to make the first cut

A healthy transplant may be ready for a small harvest around a month after planting, but wait for established new growth. Start modestly rather than shaving a newly planted clump bare.

Seasonal growth and winter protection

Common chives are perennial and can pause growth or die back seasonally. An exposed pot needs a local overwintering plan; do not assume in-ground hardiness guarantees survival in a small container.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Are these the same as garlic chives?

No. This plan uses common chives with hollow, round leaves. Garlic chives are a different species with flatter leaves and a different flavor.

Why has leaf growth slowed?

Check light, moisture, and the season. If an older clump is crowded, divide it; more fertilizer is not always the answer.

Can I grow them from seed?

Yes, but a rooted clump is the quicker start used here. Seeds and division are both valid ways to propagate chives; division keeps this first project simple.

Harvesting and dividing chives

Take a small harvest at a time

Keep scissors near the kitchen door and cut what you will use. Leaving foliage on a young clump helps it establish before heavier harvests.

Divide a crowded clump

A 3-gallon pot gives one starting clump room to expand. Lift and divide an established clump when it fills the space, keeping a rooted piece for this pot.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- Utah State University: chive division and harvest ↗
  https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/chives-in-the-garden
- NC State: common chive identity and container culture ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/allium-schoenoprasum/
- University of Minnesota: feeding and dividing herbs ↗
  https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/growing-herbs
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food.html
- Manufacturer: starter feed in the named potting mix ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/potting-mix/miracle-gro-organic-potting-mix/78951430.html

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.