

Pick a plant. Buy the right mix.

Four specific outdoor starter plans. Print on US Letter at actual size. Icons are schematic, not to scale.

Spinach

A cool spring or fall spell



12 x 12 x 12 in.

8 seeds to 4 plants

Two seeds per spot, in a 2 x 2 grid, 6 inches apart.

Light: Use a sunny spot; give afternoon shade when days warm up.

Buy 1 x 1 cu ft bag.

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US)

Budget up to 26 L (0.92 cu ft).

[Full spinach guide](#)

Basil

Warm weather after frost



3-gallon pot

1 nursery start

Sweet or Genovese basil is a useful kitchen choice.

Light: Choose your sunniest outdoor spot, with about 6 hours of sun.

Buy 1 x 1 cu ft bag.

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US)

Up to 11.4 L before watering space and the root ball.

[Full basil guide](#)

Cherry tomato

Warm weather after frost



10-gallon pot

1 compact plant

Choose a dwarf or patio cherry tomato, not a full-size vine.

Light: Choose a spot with 6-8 hours of direct sun.

Buy 2 x 1 cu ft bags.

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US)

Up to 37.9 L before watering space and the root ball.

Add a cage matched to the compact plant.

[Full cherry tomato guide](#)

Blueberry

An outdoor patio; spring is the simplest start



16 in. wide x 12 in. deep

1 nursery shrub

Peach Sorbet (ZF06-043), a compact self-fruitful shrub.

Light: A sunny spot helps fruiting; protect the pot from extreme afternoon heat.

Buy 1 x 1.5 cu ft bag.

E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Acid Mix

Budget about 36 L (1.28 cu ft); the root ball and taper reduce fresh mix needed.

Check mix pH 4.5-5.5; protect pot in winter.

[Full blueberry guide](#)

How these soil allowances work. Spinach: 12-inch internal square, filled 11 inches deep. Blueberry: 16-inch internal diameter, filled 11 inches deep. Basil and tomato: measured 3 and 10 US gallon pots. Taper, watering space and root balls change the fresh mix needed.

Measure before planting. Fill to the intended soil line using a marked US gallon vessel, record the volume, then remove enough mix for the root ball. Keep leftover mix. US dry quarts and nominal nursery sizes are not US liquid gallons.

Water first. Feed only when needed.

For liquid feed, the amount below is a mixing batch. Use only enough solution to wet the pot and drain; wait if the mix is still wet.

Spinach

Water: Check each morning. Water as the mix starts drying; wait if damp. Wet the root zone and let excess drain.

Later feed: Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose (24-8-16)

1 1/2 tablespoons in 1 1/2 US gallons of water

Every 14 days during active growth.

Start / pause: Skip extra feed at planting. Follow your potting-mix bag's starter-feeding directions before adding this routine; "up to 2 months" is not a fixed waiting period. Feed only while actively growing. A short crop may finish without extra feed.

Basil

Water: Check each morning. Water when the top inch is dry; wet the roots and let the pot drain.

Later feed: Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose (24-8-16)

1 1/2 teaspoons in 1 US gallon of water

Every 3-4 weeks outdoors.

Start / pause: Skip extra feed at planting. Follow your potting-mix bag's starter-feeding directions before adding this routine; "up to 2 months" is not a fixed waiting period. Feed only while actively growing.

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

Cherry tomato

Water: Water when the top inch is dry, then drain. Check each morning and again during hot, windy weather.

Later feed: Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose (24-8-16)

1 1/2 tablespoons in 1 1/2 US gallons of water

Every 14 days during active growth.

Start / pause: Skip extra feed at planting. Follow your potting-mix bag's starter-feeding directions before adding this routine; "up to 2 months" is not a fixed waiting period. Feed only while actively growing.

Blueberry

Water: Check daily in warm weather. Water as the surface begins drying, before the root ball dries through; wet the mix slowly and drain.

Later feed: Down To Earth Acid Mix (4-3-6)

1 tablespoon per actual US gallon of growing mix

Early spring and once more in late spring, at least one month apart.

Soil-volume dose, including retained root-ball mix. Not per gallon of water, new mix added or bags bought. Measure total volume before planting.

Start / pause: No added feed at planting. Begin only once established and the nursery or fresh-mix feeding program has ended; ask the nursery if unknown. Skip summer and fall; if planted after spring, wait until next spring.

Keep granules away from the stem, work in shallowly without damaging roots, then water. Check acidity separately.

Existing nutrients first. Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix feeds for up to two months, not a guaranteed expiry date. E.B. Stone publishes no fixed feeding duration. Follow the actual bag and nursery program; do not stack feeds.

Sources: [Maryland Extension: containers](#); [Bushel and Berry: blueberries](#); [Miracle-Gro mix](#); [E.B. Stone mix](#); [24-8-16 directions](#); [Acid Mix label](#). Full citations and plant details: [online chart](#).