VEGETABLES · A SUNNY PATIO DURING A COOL SPELL

Let's grow radish.

Raphanus sativus

This plan is for **Small round salad radish; not long-rooted daikon**

Nine little roots. A satisfying first harvest.

12 × 12 × 8 in. **18 seeds → 9 plants**

Before you start

Sow the final pot directly during cool weather. This 8-inch-deep container is for small round roots; check the packet rather than using this plan for daikon.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 26, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

A sunny spot

Give this small root crop good light, not a dim indoor corner.

WATER

Even moisture

Big swings between dry and wet can spoil the roots.

FEEDING

Usually no top-up

For this short crop, start with fresh enriched mix.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ One 12-inch square planter, at least 8 inches deep
- ✓ 18 small round radish seeds, such as Cherry Belle
- ✓ Fresh potting mix and a gentle watering can

THE SOIL

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US, with starter nutrients; check your bag for additional-feeding directions)

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 sunny patio during a cool spell. Start with **seeds**.

THE POT

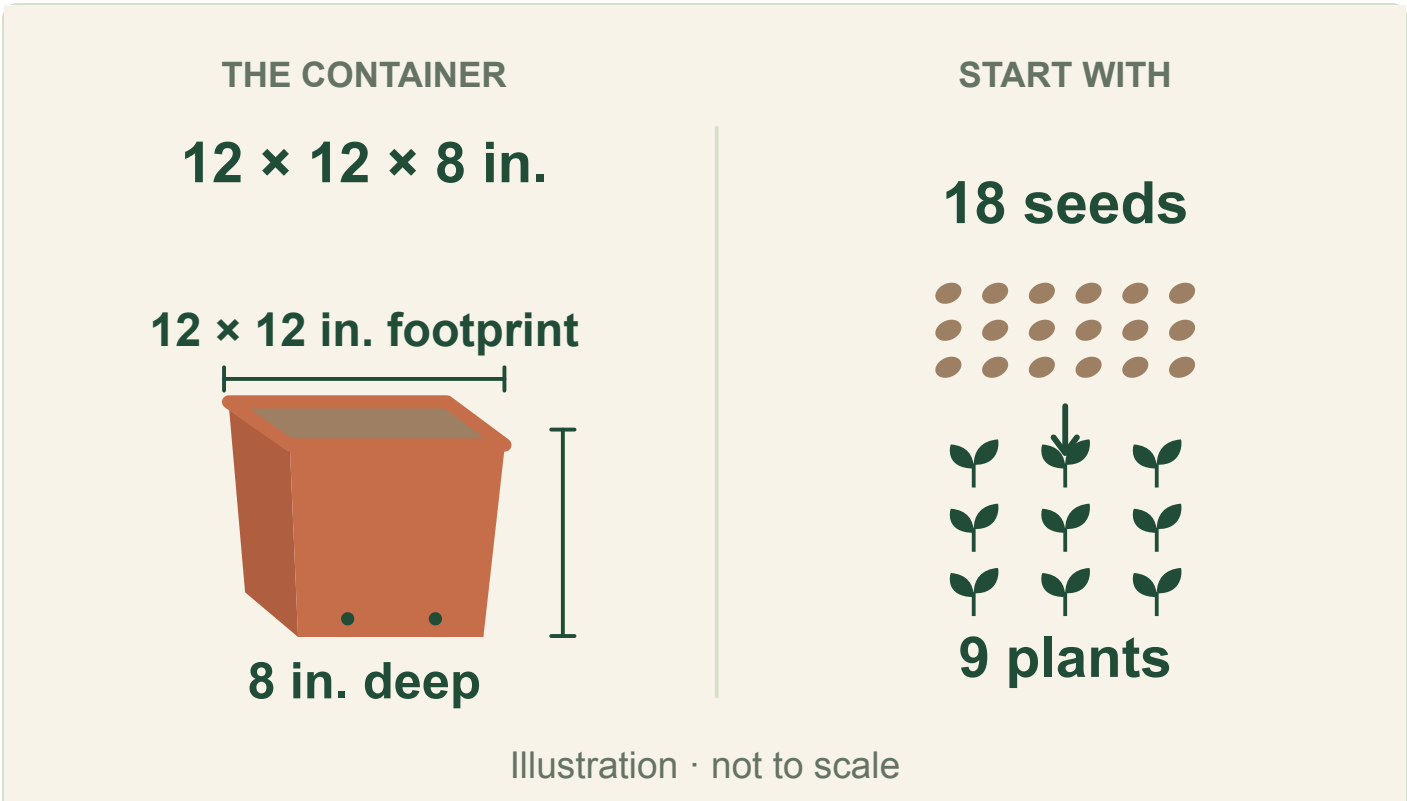
12 × 12 × 8 in.

One draining square planter; this plan uses small round radishes.

HOW MANY

18 seeds → 9 plants

Two seeds at each of 9 spots, 3 inches apart.



12 × 12 × 8 in. · 18 seeds → 9 plants One draining square planter; this plan uses small round radishes. Two seeds at each of 9 spots, 3 inches apart. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Make a small grid

Fill and dampen the mix. Mark 3 rows of 3 spots, each 3 inches apart, centered in the planter.

02

Sow two at each spot

Cover each pair with ½ inch of mix. Water gently so seeds stay in place.

03

Keep just nine

When the seedlings have true leaves, snip extras at soil level. Leave one strong plant at each spot.

04

Check the roots on time

Near the packet's harvest date, gently uncover a root shoulder and pull one to check. Harvest at the listed size; leaving them longer does not guarantee a better radish.

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

Other ways to start

Start directly from seed

For this root crop, direct sowing in the final pot is the straightforward option. This guide does not offer a stem-cutting or root-piece recipe; buy a labeled packet and avoid moving seedlings between pots.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Keep the seeded layer lightly moist. Once rooted, water when the surface starts drying; wet the deeper mix and let excess drain.

FERTILIZER

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

AMOUNT

1 tablespoon 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

Only when additional feeding is due: every 14 days during active growth. Stop at harvest or when growth finishes.

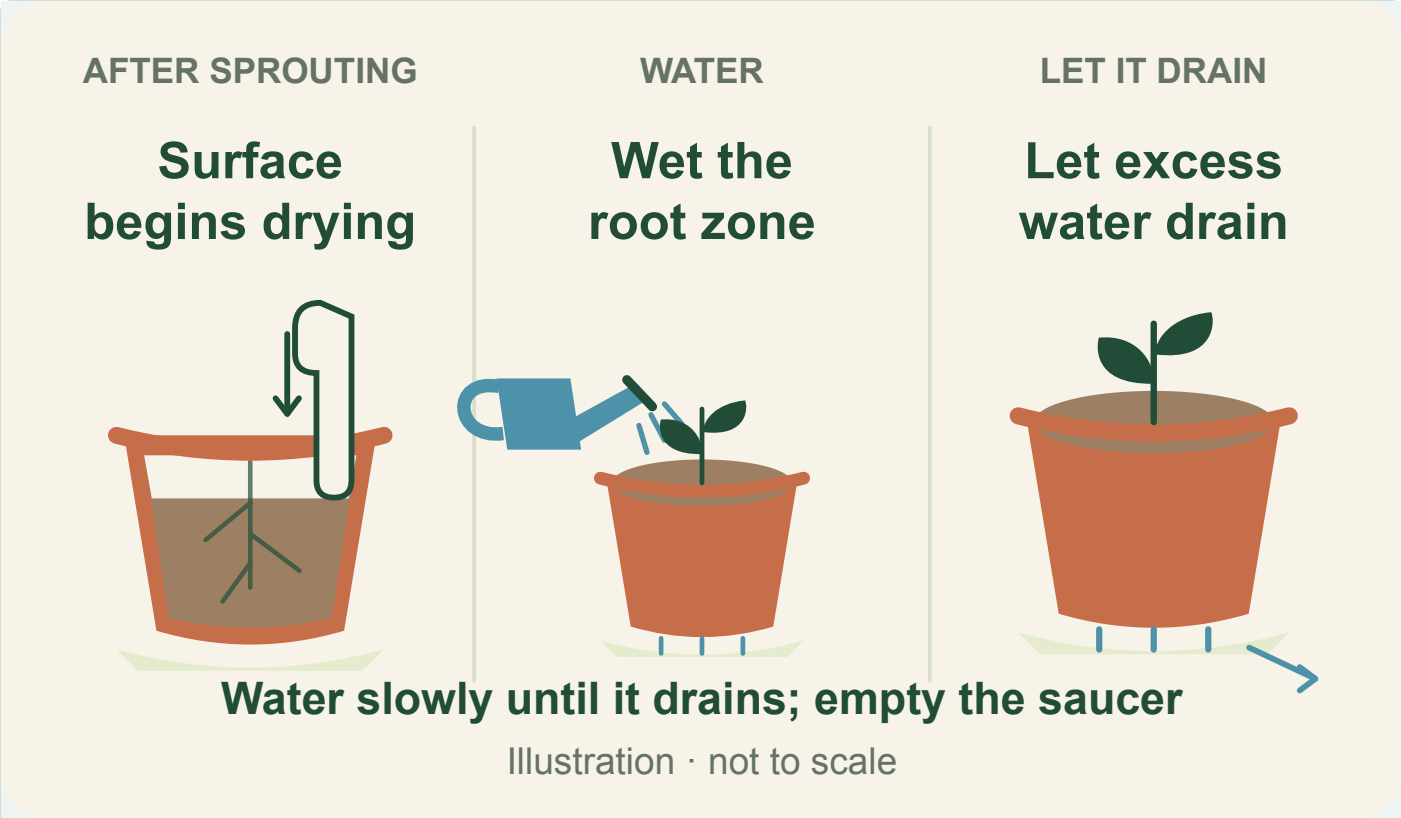
WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Check your potting-mix bag before adding food. Fresh enriched mix may cover a short crop; do not stack full-rate feeds.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check the ½-inch-deep seed layer daily until sprouts appear and keep it lightly moist. Once plants are rooted, water when the surface starts drying, wetting the deeper mix evenly and letting excess escape. If it is still moist, wait. Do not let the planter dry right out and then flood it; uneven moisture can split developing roots. There is no fixed daily cup amount.



Check before watering. Keep the seeded layer lightly moist. Once rooted, water when the surface starts drying; wet the deeper mix and let excess drain. Original illustration; not to scale.

The easy rule

Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

For one short crop, start with fresh enriched mix and check its bag: if its starter-feeding directions cover your packet's harvest period, no extra fertilizer purchase is needed. This does not apply to unamended mix or exhausted mix reused from a previous crop. Do not add fertilizer automatically just because the roots look small.



1 tablespoon 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. Only when additional feeding is due: every 14 days during active growth. Stop at harvest or when growth finishes. Check your potting-mix bag before adding food. Fresh enriched mix may cover a short crop; do not stack full-rate feeds. 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.

ONLY IF THE MIX'S DIRECTIONS CALL FOR MORE FOOD

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

If additional feeding is due while a crop is actively growing, mix 1 level tablespoon of Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16) into 1 US gallon of water. Apply only enough at the roots to wet the pot and drain, no more often than every 14 days in this plan. The gallon is a mixing batch, not a per-plant amount. Delay if wet; stop at harvest. Do not combine full-rate fertilizers. Extra food will not fix crowded, heat-stressed or overmature roots.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

The named US product's outdoor dilution is 1 tablespoon per US gallon. The 14-day interval is the slower end of its 7–14-day directions, not a crop-specific trial result. Follow your actual package; other products may differ.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Sprouting and checking harvest time

Utah State gives about 5–10 days for emergence at 55–75°F. The packet's harvest estimate is a check-in date: inspect a root shoulder and pull a test root at the listed size. Temperature, variety and growing conditions affect the pace. Do not apply a fast salad-radish harvest date to a long winter radish.

Choose a cool growing window

Choose cool spring or fall conditions. Hot weather can make roots harsher and encourage flowering. This is not a summer heat-tolerant or winter daikon recipe.

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

Something looking off?

Why are there leaves but barely any radish?

First check crowding and light, and whether the crop is growing in hot weather. Keep one plant per spot; do not add fertilizer automatically.

Why have the roots split?

A dry spell followed by heavy watering can contribute to cracking, and roots left past their best harvest stage can also split. Keep moisture steadier and check a test root at the packet's suggested size. A cracked root will not close again; inspect the remaining crop promptly.

Can I use this pot for daikon?

This plan is for short, round salad radishes. Long-rooted daikon needs a different depth and harvest plan.

Thinning and harvesting roots

Thin seedlings at each planting spot

Nine positions at 3-inch spacing leave room around the roots. Two seeds per position allow for a missed sprout; thinning is part of the recipe, not an optional extra.

Pull one root, then sow again

Pull the whole plant when the root is ready. For another crop, sow new seeds; keep the variety label with the planter so the intended root size is easy to check.

Help with your next step.

Check the food already in your potting mix

Use your actual bag's directions to decide whether this short crop needs anything extra.

Compare beginner edible projects

Compare a rooted kitchen herb with a leafy crop grown from seed.

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: sowing, thinning, and root quality ↗
  https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/radishes-in-the-garden
- Utah State University: differences among salad and larger radishes ↗
  https://extension.usu.edu/news/ask-an-expert-radishes-a-root-awakening
- University of Maryland: containers and starter nutrition ↗
  https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-vegetables-containers-and-salad-tables
- 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
- 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

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.