FLOWERS · A BRIGHT PORCH OR PATIO IN MILD WEATHER

Let's grow sweet alyssum.

Lobularia maritima

This plan is for **Carpet of Snow sweet alyssum**

A small pot of tiny, honey-scented flowers.

10-inch pot **1 nursery plant**

Before you start

Start in mild spring or fall weather; in California, check local suitability before planting because sweet alyssum can escape gardens.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 23, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

Sun or light shade

Afternoon shade helps in hot weather.

WATER

Moist, never soggy

A flowering pot still needs checking even when garden plants tolerate dryness.

FEEDING

A measured top-up later

Use fresh enriched mix first, then feed as its nutrients run out.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ One draining pot about 10 inches wide and at least 8 inches deep
- ✓ 1 compact Carpet of Snow sweet alyssum nursery plant
- ✓ Fresh potting mix, a watering can, and 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 porch or patio in mild weather. Start with **nursery plant**.

THE POT

10-inch pot

At least 8 inches deep with drainage; let the plant spread over the rim.

HOW MANY

1 nursery plant

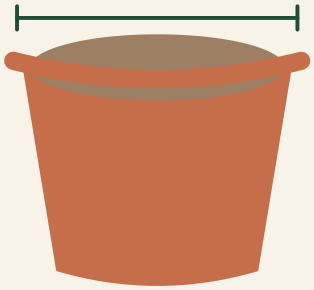
Choose a small Carpet of Snow sweet alyssum start.

THE CONTAINER

10-inch pot

START WITH

1 nursery plant



Drainage holes



Illustration · not to scale

10-inch pot · 1 nursery plant At least 8 inches deep with drainage; let the plant spread over the rim. Choose a small Carpet of Snow sweet alyssum start. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Give one plant its own pot

Fill with damp mix and leave an inch below the rim. A small start will spread; you do not need to cram in a whole bedding pack.

02

Plant at the existing level

Keep the top of the root ball level with the surrounding mix. Water slowly until excess drains away.

03

Choose gentle sun in hot weather

Use a bright spot with afternoon shade when summers are intense. Check the mix rather than relying on flowers to tell you it is thirsty.

04

Trim a tired display

After a flush fades, lightly shear spent flowering tips, leaving leafy growth. Keep care steady while fresh shoots develop.

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

Other ways to start

Start with 6 tiny seeds

Press 6 Carpet of Snow seeds onto the damp surface near the pot's center; do not bury them. They need light. Mist gently as needed. Once seedlings have true leaves, snip extras and retain one strong plant for this pot.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Keep the seeded surface damp. Once established, water as the top inch starts drying; let the pot 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

Every 14 days during active growth.

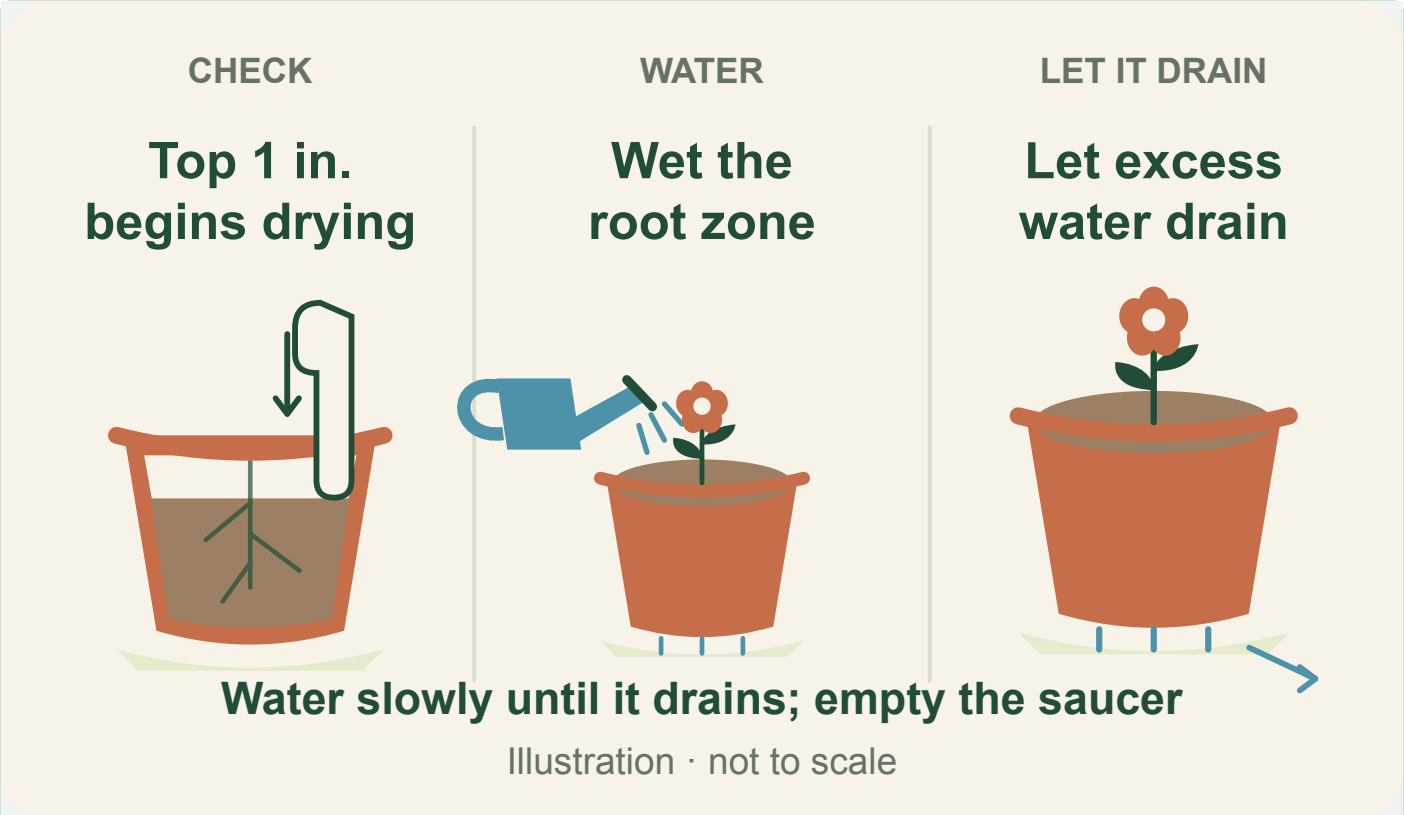
WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

After starter feed ends, feed only during active growth. Skip while another fertilizer is active; food will not correct summer heat.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check daily. When the top inch begins to dry, water at the base until the pot drains. The seeded surface needs to stay damp until emergence. Avoid a water-filled saucer. In a hot spell, check again later; both drought and persistently wet roots can damage the plant.



Check before watering. Keep the seeded surface damp. Once established, water as the top inch starts drying; let the pot drain. 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.

Add no fertilizer at planting with fresh enriched mix. When its starter nutrients need replenishing, a measured general container feed can support new growth.



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. Every 14 days during active growth. After starter feed ends, feed only during active growth. Skip while another fertilizer is active; food will not correct summer heat. 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.

AFTER THE STARTER FEED HAS RUN OUT

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

Mix 1 tablespoon of the US 24-8-16 product into 1 gallon of water. Use enough solution to wet the root zone and drain every 14 days while actively growing after the starter feed ends. This combines the manufacturer's outdoor dilution with general Extension container guidance. Skip while other fertilizer is still active; more feed will not correct summer heat.

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

Sprouting and seasonal flowers

The named seed supplier gives about 5–14 days for germination in suitable warmth. A rooted nursery start gives a faster flower display. Growth forms a low mound, with flowering often slowing in hot summers.

Planting windows and regional suitability

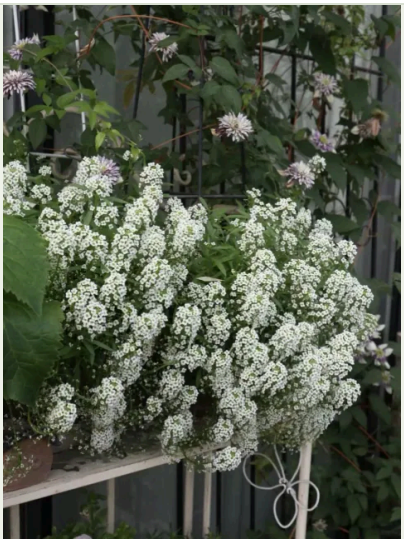
Mild spring and fall conditions are useful starting windows. Regional suitability matters: sweet alyssum can escape gardens in parts of California, so check local advice before choosing it there.

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

PHOTO NOTES

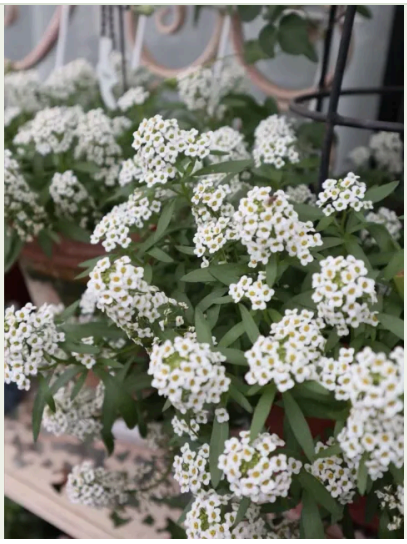
Flower clusters, up close.

White and pink-purple flower clusters, with a closer look at trailing growth. The pictured cultivars are unconfirmed; this guide uses compact 'Carpet of Snow'.



White flower clusters cascading over the edge of a plant shelf.

Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.



White flowers and narrow leaves seen up close.

Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.



Pink and purple flower clusters among narrow leaves.

Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.

Something looking off?

Why did my white flowers stop blooming?

Hot weather can slow flowering. Lightly trim faded growth, check moisture, and give afternoon shade in intense heat. Wait for cooler conditions instead of repeatedly increasing fertilizer.

Why did the seeds fail when I buried them?

Sweet alyssum needs light to germinate. Press seed onto moist mix without burying it; keep the surface damp with gentle watering.

Will the plant spread outside its pot?

It can reseed, so a pot does not contain the seeds. Remove spent growth before seed ripens and pull volunteer seedlings. Check local planting guidance, especially near natural areas.

Checking local suitability and plant size

Check local advice before allowing reseeding

California's Invasive Plant Council lists sweet alyssum as Limited invasive. In affected areas, choose a locally recommended alternative rather than letting it reseed. This guide does not recommend it for every US location.

Choose a compact type for this pot

This plan uses a compact seed-grown type such as Carpet of Snow. Larger vegetatively propagated hybrids can spread much farther; check the mature width on a nursery label.

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.

- NC State: sweet alyssum growth, light, and heat response ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/lobularia-maritima/
- Sow Right Seeds: Carpet of Snow sowing and emergence ↗
  https://sowrightseeds.com/products/white-carpet-of-snow-sweet-alyssum-seeds
- University of Minnesota: feeding and watering containers ↗
  https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/fertilizing-and-watering-container-plants
- Wisconsin Extension: general container feeding intervals ↗
  https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2014/11/A3382.pdf
- California Invasive Plant Council: regional sweet alyssum assessment ↗
  https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/profile/lobularia-maritima-profile/
- 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.