

How to pot up a seedling into a larger container

Things to know: the pot needs to be larger than the container the seedling is currently in. Up-potting can be done multiple times over the seedling's life until planted in the ground. The main purpose of potting up is to give it a chance to establish a healthy root system before planting it in the ground.

Make sure you do not leave a seedling in a pot that is too small. This can create a pot-bound root system that is circling the edge of the pot. This is unhealthy for the plant and it will struggle when finally planted in the ground. As the seedling grows, keep up-potting it until you can plant it in the ground



Image 1.
What you need: Pot, potting soil, seedling, water.
Optional: gloves, digging tool.



Image 2.
Step 1: fill the pot with potting soil (or what you have on hand). Lightly press the soil with your hand to push out any air pockets in the soil that may occur when filling the pot.



Image 3.

Step 2: Remove the seedling from the pot. Be as gentle as possible. Do not yank the seedling by the stem if it is stuck in the pot, this can rip off the roots. Press the soil up from the bottom of the pot while gently pulling on the stem to get the seedling out.



Image 4.

Step 3: Determine where the roots start on the stem. This can sometimes be a bit below the soil line. You will determine the depth of your planting hold based on where the root system starts.

The index finger is pointing to where the root system begins and what depth to plant the seedling at. The arrow is the total length of the seedling's root system and is how deep to make the hole in Step 4.



Image 5.
Step 4: Dig a hole in the soil. Depending on how tough the soil is, you may want to use a trowel or other digging tool.

Make the hole the same depth as the total length of the seedling's root system. You determined this in Step 3 by locating the seedling's top roots.

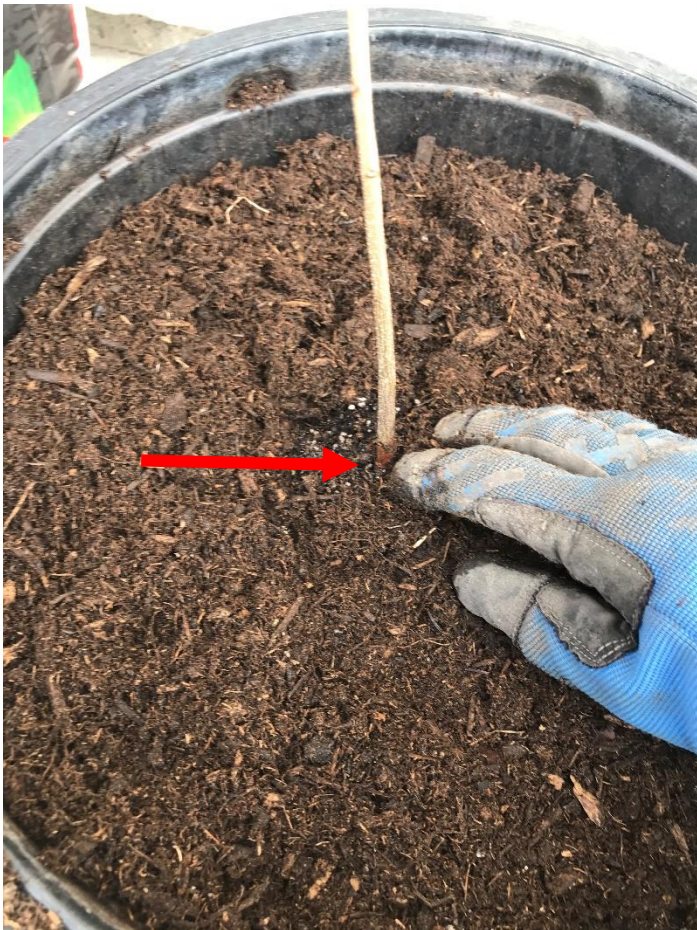


Image 6.
Step 5: Plant the seedling. Make sure the point where the seedling's root start, is located at or slightly above soil line.

This ensures that the roots will start growing at the correct depth in the soil.



Image 7.
You have now potted up your seedling!
One more step, water!



Image 8.
Step 6. Water your seedling. Give it a good drink to get that new soil wet. Since your seedling is in a pot, it will require more frequent watering than if it was planted in the ground.

Depending on where you place the pot, you will need to water the seedling every couple of days. Watch to see if the leaves get droopy or start to have dark edges. This indicates the seedling needs more water.

Be careful not to overwater the seedling. The soil should not be consistently saturated (soaking wet). This can kill the roots. Let the soil slightly dry out between watering. You can check soil moisture by sticking your finger in the soil to determine how wet or dry it is.