

# Instructions for Self-Watering Elevated Planter Box and Self-Watering Insert for Elevated Planter Box, 2' x 8'

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## Planter Box Parts List

- (4) 8' x 8" or (8) 8' x 4" BOARDS
- (4) CORNERS
- (2) PLATFORM SUPPORTS
- (4) FLAT STOCK
- (3) CROSS SUPPORTS
- (2) 2' END PANELS
- (4) CORNER CAPS
- (66) PHILLIPS SCREWS

## Assembly Tools Required

- Screw gun / drill with #2 Phillips bit
- Phillips screwdriver
- Rubber mallet or hammer
- Tape measure
- Clamp (optional)
- Snips or shears (for Self-Watering System Assembly only)

Assembly is easiest with two people.



## Self-Watering System Parts List

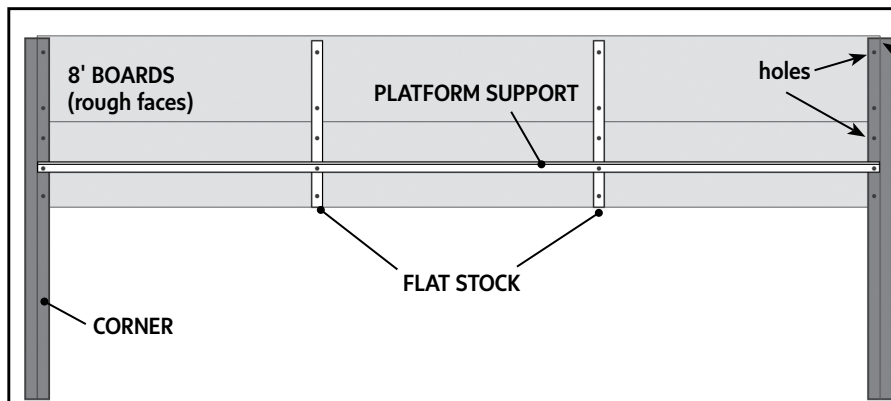
- (3) WOODEN SPACERS
- (1) FILL TUBE
- (1) WATER LEVEL INDICATOR
- (2) CAPS
- (3) CONNECTING TUBES
- (4) RESERVOIRS and RESERVOIR TOPS

If you are retrofitting an existing 2' x 8' Elevated Planter Box, empty it out, remove the existing cedar floor, fabric liner, and cross supports and skip to Part II: Self-Watering System Assembly. Keep the cross supports — you will reinstall them after you connect and insert the water reservoirs. You will not need to reinstall the floor planks or liner.

## I. Planter Box Assembly

1. Align the short edges of two 8" BOARDS or four 4" BOARDS on a flat surface, (rough sides facing up) and clamp or hold them firmly together.
2. Slide a CORNER onto the ends of the BOARDS, positioning it as shown in Fig. 1. The top BOARD should come to sit  $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the top of the CORNER.
3. Making sure there is no gap between the BOARDS and that they are fully seated into the CORNER, secure with PHILLIPS SCREWS. Leave the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole from the bottom open for now. Repeat Steps 1-3 to attach another CORNER to the other end.
4. Take a PLATFORM SUPPORT and place the face with 4 holes against the BOARDS (Fig. 1). Align the holes on the ends with the holes you left open in Step 3 and secure with PHILLIPS SCREWS.
5. Slide 2 FLAT STOCK underneath the PLATFORM SUPPORT and align holes as shown in Fig. 1. Secure the FLAT STOCK with PHILLIPS SCREWS.
6. Repeat Steps 1–6 to assemble the other side panel.

**Figure 1**



Illustrations show  
8" H boards.

7. Use a rubber mallet to tap a pre-assembled 2' END PANEL into the open channel of a CORNER, positioning it so the CROSS SUPPORT sits under the PLATFORM SUPPORT on the 8' side panel (Fig. 2) and screw holes align. Ensure END PANEL is fully seated and  $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the top of the CORNER, then secure with PHILLIPS SCREWS as shown. Repeat to attach the remaining 2' END PANEL to the other end.

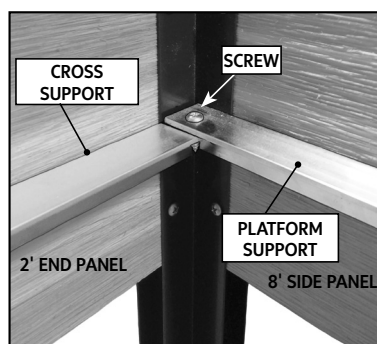


Figure 2

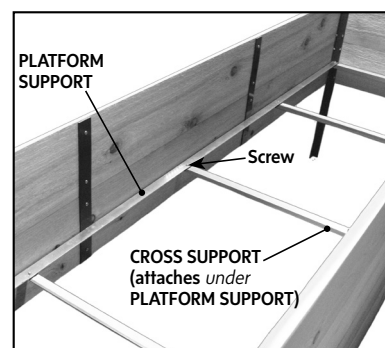


Figure 3

8. Place the remaining 8' side panel on a flat surface. Carefully guide the 2' END PANELS of your partially assembled box into the open channels of the CORNERS. Secure with PHILLIPS SCREWS. Once all PANELS are attached, stand your Planter Box right side up and tap a CORNER CAP into the top of each aluminum CORNER.
9. You will install the 3 CROSS SUPPORTS during Step 3 of Self-Watering System Assembly (below). To do this, place CROSS SUPPORTS under PLATFORM SUPPORTS but over CONNECTING TUBES, align screw holes, and secure with PHILLIPS SCREWS from the top (see Fig. 3).

## II. Self-Watering System Assembly



1. Seal one connector port on two RESERVOIRS with a CAP.



2. Rest RESERVOIRS on PLATFORM SUPPORTS with open connector ports facing, sealed connector ports on ends.



3. Link RESERVOIRS with CONNECTING TUBES; slide tubes fully over each port. Then, install/reinstall planter box CROSS SUPPORTS (see #10 above). Add water, and check for leaks.



4. Remove perforated circle in **ONE** RESERVOIR TOP to create a hole for the FILL TUBE.



5. Install RESERVOIR TOPS\* and place WOODEN SPACERS between RESERVOIRS. Then, insert the FILL TUBE (it is notched so you can set it at multiple heights. Be sure to set it above your desired soil planting line). Once placed, slide outer section up if needed (for additional height), then insert WATER LEVEL INDICATOR, foam end down. You may need to trim indicator to close cap. *Note: The WATER LEVEL INDICATOR should rise up when reservoirs are full. The foam end, however, may become caught under the FILL TUBE during filling. If this happens, gently jostle it free.*



\* In tests, we found that placing the FILL TUBE in the center, rather than on an end, promoted faster refilling of the reservoirs.

## IV. Filling and Planting

Fill/refill your Planter Box with a lightweight mix designed for self-watering containers, such as our Organic Self-Watering Potting Mix. Add some compost and a slow-release fertilizer for best results. Avoid using a heavy garden soil as it may overload your planter. Press the potting mix into the channels in RESERVOIR TOPS to ensure good water-soil contact. Fill the RESERVOIRS using the FILL TUBE. You're now ready to plant! While plants are getting established, or in higher temperatures, water regularly from the top too.