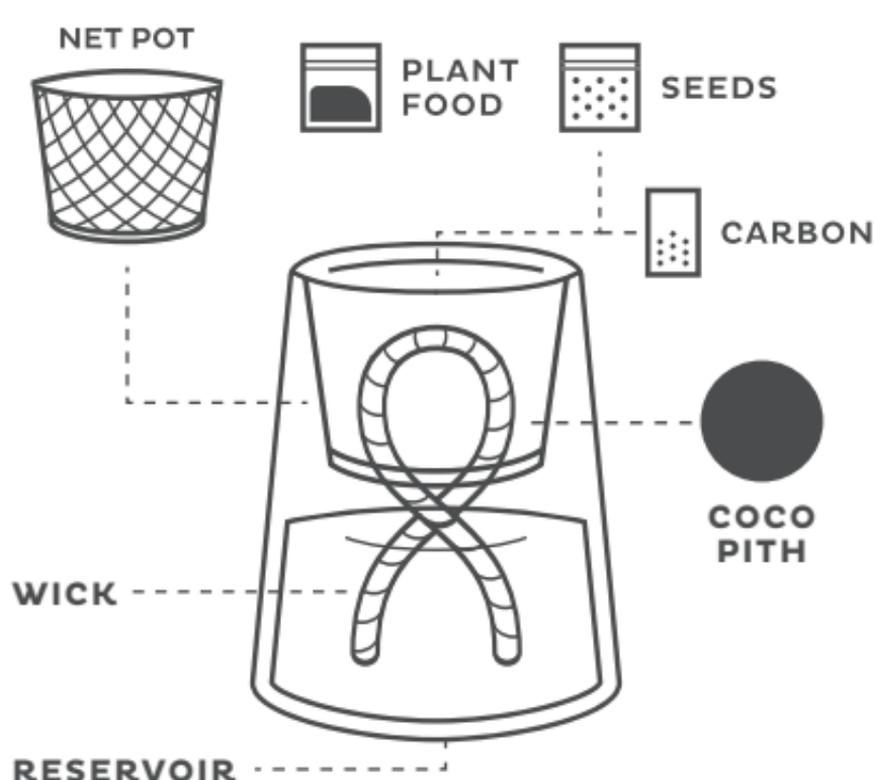


# AMERICAN ELM

## TREE GROW KIT

### SELF-WATERING CERAMIC PLANTER



Before you start, consider the time of year and your region's climate. American Elm thrives in temps between 70°-75°F and with at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight (an unobstructed south or west-facing window is best). Starting in Mar-Sept will provide longer days and thus optimal light. If starting during cooler months, it's recommended that you supplement natural light with a grow light (fluorescent or LED).

**Sprout Time: 14-28 days**

## GETTING STARTED

1. Soak seeds in a bowl of room temperature water for 24 hours.
2. Wash hands and remove all contents from planter.
3. Pour 1 cup water into planter.
4. Place coco disc in a medium bowl and add ½ cup of water. Coco disc will expand. Break it apart and fluff with your hands.
5. Thread wick through net pot as seen in diagram. Loop should be ¼" below the top of the pot.
6. Fill entire net pot with coco pith, through and around wick. Fill to ¼" below the top of the pot. Discard excess pith.
7. Carefully drop net pot into planter.
8. Pour carbon evenly over coco pith.
9. Sprinkle on seeds and push them just below the surface of the coco pith.
10. Place planter in a warm and sunny window (70°-75°F).
11. Touch the surface of the coco pith daily, and if it's not slightly damp, spray with a little water. Don't oversaturate.

**OVER >**

12. Once sprouts develop, remove net pot and pour out water.
13. Mix 1 cup water and  $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp of plant food and pour through net pot, carefully around sprouts. Solution will collect in reservoir.

Occasionally lift net pot to determine if planter needs a refill. If so, repeat 13.

## GROWING ON

Some seeds may fail to germinate (this is nature). If sprouts don't appear in 4-5 weeks, the seeds may have been planted too deep, grow medium is too dry or wet, or temps are too low. In dry climates or during cooler months, consider creating a greenhouse effect by placing a plastic bag over the planter. Punch a few holes for ventilation. Remove the bag once sprouts are  $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall.

Sunlight, temperature, ventilation and humidity will impact how the growing medium holds moisture. **Ideally, the coco should be medium brown in color.** Coco that is dark brown in color is too wet and can develop mold. To achieve an optimal moisture level, you may need to adjust the watering frequency and volume to compliment your environment. The carbon is included to prevent mold from developing - it conditions the coco and manages moisture.

If plant appears weak and spindly, there is either not enough light or temps are not in the optimal range. Try a different window or consider supplementing with a grow light. During the outdoor growing season you can place the planter outside temporarily to jump start your sprouts (just be sure to bring the planter indoors if it rains).

If temps outside drop below 45°F, remove planter from window to prevent cold damage.

## TRANSPLANTING

This Ceramic Planter is designed to grow a small American Elm tree; however, in certain regions you can transplant it into the ground to grow a full size tree. To learn if your region is conducive to growing Elm trees, please contact the Master Gardening extension office in your state.

Transplant outside into a location with partial to full sun after the threat of frost has passed, and tree sprouts are at least 4"-6" tall.

Harden off plant for 5-7 days by placing it outdoors in partial sun during the day, and bringing it indoors at night. Remove from net pot prior to transplanting.

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Ceramic Planters are assembled in the USA of domestic and imported components.