

Ohio State University Extension

Lake County

105 Main Street, Suite B402

(440) 853-2634—HELPLine

(440) 853-2625—Main office

**On FB: Ohio State University Extension-Lake County
Master Gardeners**

lake.osu.edu



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Potting Soil Recipe

The end soil should be loose, well-drained and have plenty of organic matter.

Mix

- one part sphagnum peat moss or compost
- one part pasteurized soil,
- one part vermiculite or perlite
- and some composted cow manure

NOTE: Soil mixes tend to hold water better than soilless mixes.

- However if you are going to be moving your container from place to place, use a soilless mixture as it is lighter and easier to move



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Soil Mix

First: Mix in 1/2 T of Osmocote (or other balanced fertilizer) to 1 gallon of soil medium. If you are planting veggies, make sure that the fertilizer is one that specifically says it is for veggies or human consumption.

(Balanced fertilizer is one that has the same percentage of Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Osmocote is a 14-14-14.)

I like to use my hands but you may mix with any suitable tool.

******You want to mix in the fertilizer because the soil will quickly become depleted of nutrients during the growing season. In this step, some people like to mix in those water holding gel crystals that soak up the water and slowly release it back to the soil.



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Soil Mix

Second: Moisten the mixture slightly

Third: If you will need to stake your plant, this is the time to put the stake in the pot, now add the soil mixture about halfway.

Fourth: Plants

- Start by arranging the largest ones first
- Fill in with the smaller plants
- Add dirt up to 2 inches below the top of the container. Do not overfill
- Water.



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Maintenance

Maintaining your containers is similar to maintaining your garden. You may need to:

- Dead head
- Weed
- Check for pests regularly.
 - If you find any, please follow proper pest management procedures.

If you are unsure as to how to deal with them, feel free to call the **MGV helpline at 440-853-2634**. We are open Tuesdays April thru October. 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. You may also call anytime and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.



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Lake County
**Master Gardener
HELPLine**



CALL the OSU/Lake County
Extension **Master Gardener
HELPLine** for **FREE** research-based
information--for all your
gardening questions.

Speak to a Master
Gardener

April-October
Tuesday Mornings
9:00 AM-11:00 AM

440-853-2634

During non-staffed hours please leave a
voicemail or email us @
MGVLakeCounty@gmail.com
We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Ohio State University Extension
Lake County
105 Main Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077



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For information on the Lake County Master
Gardener Volunteers (LCMGVs) and all that we do,
please visit our website at lake.osu.edu and click
on "**Master Gardener Volunteers**" under Featured
County Programs.

Like us on our **Facebook page** found at "**Ohio State
University Extension-Lake County Master
Gardeners.**"

Our Programs include:
HELPLine (April through October),
Annual Home Gardeners' Workshop in March
Meet Us In the Garden (a series of FREE monthly
presentations from April through November)

The LCMGVs maintain the **Peace Garden** at the
Fairgrounds (which you can visit)
and

An instructional **vegetable garden** at the **Juvenile
Justice Center** which enables the residents to
supplement their meals.

We regularly participate in Lake Metroparks
programs including **Earth Day** and **Bug Day**,

As well as offering
Various school programs,
Community presentations and
Library displays.

If you would like to become a **Lake County
Master Gardener Volunteer**, please contact us at
440-853-2634 or MGVLakeCounty@gmail.com

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Ohio State
University Extension using your preferred communication (e-
mail, relay service, or video relay services) Phone 1-800-750-
0750 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.
Inform the operator to dial 4



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