

The Potted Plants for the Albion – Information and care sheet.

Potted plants generally require more maintenance than plants in a garden. Regular maintenance will ensure that your potted plants stay and look splendid year round.

The potting mix, the plants and the methods used support local business, be chemical free and in keeping with the principles of permaculture.

The Potting Mix

The potting mixture that was created for the Albion pots had the majority of ingredients locally sourced. Commercial potting mixes are questionable quality – often with cheaper ingredients used. These can often become water repellent, which drops the moisture content rapidly. They often include chemical wetting agents.

The potting mix that was designed for the potted plants at the Albion Café has safe ingredients, is reliable, longer lasting, airy, moisture retentive and has some nutrient value. The main components are:

- Mushroom compost
- Course Sand
- Local topsoil
- Coconut coir
- Vermiculite
- Blood & Bone
- Crusher dust

The ingredients are to maximise water retention and provide a stable and nutritious medium for your plant to grow well and to minimise the need for repotting. The Coconut coir will exude an orange-red colour in the water for some time before the colour is leached. This is perfectly normal. Coir is a long lasting product that is a renewable resource – so it is a great environmental choice and leaves the soil well balanced unlike its peat moss (environmentally degrading) counterparts.

Watering

Regular watering is essential for your pots. You can test individual pots by pushing your finger down into the pot. If you have some potting mix stuck to your finger then it's moist enough. If not then it is probably too dry.

If the soil has shrunk away from the edge of the pot then it is much too dry also. This can lead to a long term damage of the potted plant and will need to be remedied.

If the pot is moist then it may not need daily watering. Smaller pots generally need to be more frequently watered than larger pots – however this will depend if it is in the hot sun all day or in partial shade or full shade.

Watering is a process of getting to know each plant and pot and how much it requires. If there is water coming out of the bottom of the pot then it is likely to have been overwatered.

Fertilising

It's important to fertilise your pot plants regularly and in small doses and like feeding

plants in the ground, vary the fertilisers. Slow release fertiliser will keep the nutrients up to your plant during the warmer months. In winter, animal manure will add organic matter to the potting mix and a liquid feed, such as seaweed mixed in a watering can or worm juice from the worm farm can be given a few times a year, more frequently in the summer months.

The plants

Pot Size	Species	Special requirements
The Big Pots	Ballerina Apple – Bolero 	Sunny spot – 5-6 hours sunshine per day. Doesn't need pruning. Perfect for pots.
	Bay Tree 	Hardy evergreen – can tolerate shading. Can be pruned to any shape.
	Kaffir Lime 	Open, sunny position. Likes to be watered more when fruiting. Very well suited to pots.
	Meyer Lemon 	Open, sunny position. Likes to be watered more when fruiting

The troughs	<p>Rosemary</p> 	Hardy, likes full sun
	<p>Lavender</p> 	Hardy, likes full sun
Medium Pots	<p>Jerusalem Artichoke (currently in Asian green pot)</p> 	Full sun or partial shade. Will grow over 1 metres tall and produce yellow flowers. Dies down after flowering. Will need to be kept moist.
	<p>Tree onion</p> 	Full sun or partial shade. Very hardy. Will die back a little in the cooler months

	<p>Globe artichoke</p> 	<p>Full sun or partial shade. Very hardy. Will die back a little in the cooler months. Likes to be kept moist.</p>
	<p>Blueberry – Brigatta</p> 	<p>A low bush that looks stunning in pots. Will loose it leaves in winter. Likes a sunny open position.</p>
	<p>Grape vine</p> 	<p>Like a full sun position. Deciduous vine, likes to be pruned.</p>
<p>Small pots</p>	<p>Basil</p> 	<p>Annual herb – full sun to partial shade, will die down after flowering and need to be replaced with a winter vegetable (such as Kale)</p>

	<p>Chard</p> 	<p>Annual vegetable that likes a sunny positions and kept moist.</p>
	<p>Common Mint</p> 	<p>Perennial likes a shady position and to be kept moist.</p>
	<p>Italian parsley</p> 	<p>Biennial herb that will regrow in the second year. Can tolerate sunny – shady positions and likes to be well watered.</p>
	<p>Lemon Balm</p> 	<p>Herbaceous perennial – will die down after flowering but resproat the following year. Like a partial shade position.</p>

	<p>Oregano</p> 	<p>Perennial herb that can tolerate full sun – shady position.</p>
	<p>Rocket</p> 	<p>An annual that likes a sunny well water position. Grows well in pots. After flowering it will go quite leggy until it dies.</p>
	<p>Sage</p> 	<p>Perennial herb that can tolerate full sun – shady positions. I like to prune them after the flowers have died down to keep them compact and healthy.</p>

	<p>Strawberries</p> 	<p>Open sunny position</p>
	<p>Thyme</p> 	<p>Perennial herb that can tolerate full sun – shady position.</p>

Mulch

Organic Sugar Cane mulch has been used to mulch the plants to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture. In time it will break down and can be topped up every few months as required.

Pests and Diseases

It is recommended that you carry out regular inspections – such as while watering, and remove any snails or slugs. On the lemon trees ants can farm scale –



If you see these small "scales" on the lemon tree, remove immediately and destroy them. "Eco-Oil" can be used to loosen the associated black sooty mould. Lime sulphur can be sprayed on the trees in winter or the use of pyrethrum can also be effective.

If you notice plants that have leaves that have got black spots, fungus, powdery mildew then it is best to remove the affected leaves and destroy them.

Thank you and enjoy your potted culinary garden!

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