

Directions for Starting Seeds & Transplanting Seedlings



Sow or Transplant

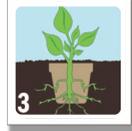
Fill CowPots with potting soil mix and plant seeds (according to directions *on the seed packet*) or transplant seedling after 1st true leaves appear.



Nurture

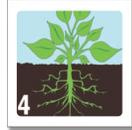
Water and fertilize as needed. Give the pot time to harden between watering.

Helpful Hint: CowPots turn **dark brown** when wet, and **light brown** when it's time to water again!



Plant

When seedlings are ready for planting, place entire CowPot into soil, cover completely with soil, then water.



Enjoy

CowPots last for months above ground but once transplanted into soil, the pots begin to degrade.

For more helpful hints and instructional videos, visit our website: cowpots.com

What makes CowPots different?

CowPots are made from composted cow manure. Unlike peat or plastic, manure is renewable, which means our cows provide us more everyday.

Do they work?

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station conducted a growing trial comparing 4 different biodegradable pots. The following results were measured as the **percentage of degradation** at the end of the growing season:

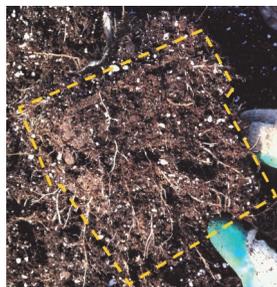
- 0% of the rice hull pot (still intact)
- 10% of the Jiffy peat pot
- 12% of the Fertal spruce pot
- 88% of the CowPot (only 12% remaining)

CowPots actually break down in one growing season!

How?

The nitrogen that is naturally in manure serves 2 purposes:

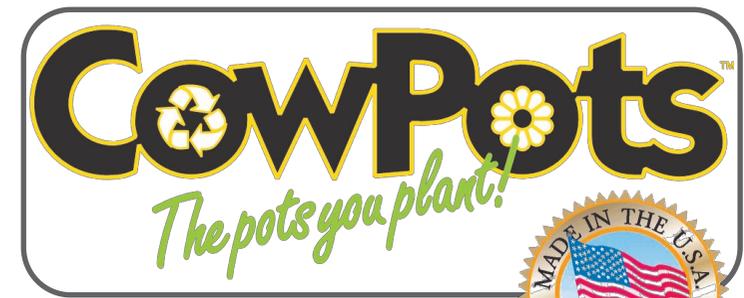
- #1 It kick starts the composting process allowing CowPots to break down once planted.
- #2 Nitrogen also attracts micro-organisms in the soil to assist in the decomposition process.



Owned and operated by our farm family.

Our cows and our people can be found at:
324 Norfolk Road, PO Box 636
East Canaan, CT 06024

Phone/Fax: 860-824-7520
Email: info@cowpots.com



**BETTER
FOR YOUR
PLANTS AND
OUR PLANET!**

Choose Renewable & Sustainable CowPots

An American company committed to providing a truly biodegradable, plantable pot.

For more information about:

Growing benefits and customer reviews, directions and instructional videos, suggested uses for different pot sizes, recent news articles and posts visit:

cowpots.com



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At Freund's Farm we grow all of the forages to feed our cows supplemented by grains and minerals. We work closely with our dairy nutritionist to ensure that our animals have a complete and balanced diet.

We work under the guidance of a veterinarian to assure that we have an effective preventative health care and treatment policy.

Our farm participates in the National Dairy FARM Program, a 3rd party verifiable animal well-being program.



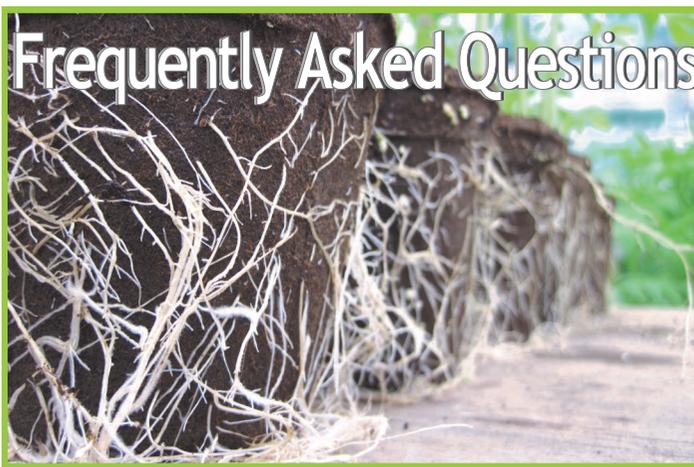
For farm videos and more details about our cows visit our website: cowpots.com

Sustainability on our Farm

- **Methane digester** - biogas produced from manure offsets the use of propane and heating oil.
- **CowPots** - exports excess nutrients from our farm to where they're needed (your garden) and replaces non-renewable planting containers like plastic and peat.
- **Solar Panels** - capture energy to power our dairy farm and CowPots production facility.
- **Nutrient Management Plan and Forestry Stewardship Plan** - guides the activities on our farm for managing soil health and forest longevity.



We received the 2015 Sustainability Award in Resource Stewardship from the [U.S. Innovation Center for Dairy](http://www.usdairy.com) for our multi-faceted approach to protecting the waterways, creatively managing the manure produced on our farm and improving the soil and land on which we farm.



I've used peat pots, isn't this the same thing? CowPots are an exciting alternative to peat - CowPots are **PEAT-FREE**. CowPots' porous walls allow for better root penetration than peat pots, and **they actually decompose in the same growing season.**

How long can I store unused CowPots? If kept dry, indefinitely.

What kind of soil should I put in my CowPots? Always use new, sterile potting soil, but a specific brand or variety is not critical.

How long will my planted CowPot last in a greenhouse setting? Shelf life once planted is approx. 12 weeks, depending on size. After that time, pot walls may become weak.

Should I use fertilizer in my CowPots? Yes. Use your normal feeding protocol with the fertilizer of your choice.

Do my seedlings receive any nutrients from CowPots?

CowPots are a soil amendment rather than a nutrient - when the CowPot is planted into the ground it attracts the microorganisms in your soil. These microorganisms benefit your plant & soil (and help breakdown the CowPot).

How can I tell if I'm properly watering my seedlings? You can tell by color and touch. When pot walls are dark brown and moist to the touch, they do not need to be watered. When light brown and dry, it's time to water again.

How should I handle my plants in CowPots? Best if handled when dry. Once plants become established you can lift the plant at the base of the stalk. This method minimizes root stress and possible damage to the CowPot.

Do I need to rip, tear or crush the CowPot before planting in the ground? NO WAY. Ripping and tearing the pot will harm your plants roots. Growing in CowPots eliminates transplant shock *because* when it's time to transplant, no need to rip or tear the pot. Porous pot walls allow for continued root growth after planting.

My in-ground planted CowPots are not breaking down completely. What am I doing wrong? Sandy soils and soils with fewer microorganisms typically display slower rates of decomposition in CowPots. Make sure none of the CowPot is exposed to air, the whole pot needs to be covered with soil.

The natural cycle of decomposition



CowPots are **made from manure.**

They decompose, biodegrade and add value to your garden **just like manure.**

About Fungus and Mold

Fungus and molds are **easily managed** within the suggested **12 week** shelf life of planted CowPots. These spores are a natural occurrence, and are not harmful to you or your plant & will disappear when the pot dries out.

When CowPots are allowed to dry between watering and with adequate spacing, their walls become a **less inviting home** for fungus and mold (which grow best on moist surfaces).



After 12 weeks, it is these same fungi and molds that make the **magic of decomposition** occur so that CowPots continue to be 100% biodegradable and the best pot for your plants and our planet.

Suggestions for managing fungus and mold on your CowPots:

Growing Tip #1: Do not overwater! Let the pot show you when to water. When pot walls are dark brown and moist to the touch, they do not need to be watered. When light brown and dry, it's time to water again.

Growing Tip #2: Allow for space and ventilation between CowPots.