

Springtime Pot Recovery

As plants start to grow again in the Spring it's good to cheer up your existing planted pots.

Your plants need air and water in the compost they are growing in. After a year the surface of the compost will have become compacted restricting the flow of air and water.

Use a handfork or trowel to loosen up the top 2" (5cm) of the compost and remove it.

Add some fresh compost, choosing a compost similar to the existing compost – eg if soil based choose a **John Innes compost**, if more fibrous based choose a **peat-based tub & basket compost**.



What you'll need

- Trowel or Handfork
- Compost –
 - soil based John Innes
 - fibre based tub & basket
- Slow release fertiliser or Liquid fertiliser
- Secateurs to trim plants
- New plants to cheer up your display

We like to add a fertiliser that will keep our plants fed all summer like **Miracle-Gro all purpose Continuous release plant food**. Some folk like to feed regularly during the spring and summer and use **Miracle-Gro all purpose soluble plant food**.



**See over for suggestions for tackling pots in different conditions*

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Assessing what your pots need

The plants all look happy and healthy

You only need to replace the top layer of compost and feed the plants. A very light trim might keep the plants bushy and well behaved, but only if you think they are getting a little straggly.

Some of the plants aren't looking very good

As well as replacing the top layer of compost and feeding you will want to dig out the poor looking plants and replace them with new ones. In this Herb Tower we have replaced one of the Thymes at the top, trimmed the Rosemary that was getting too big and popped in a couple of Parsley plants in a gap.



Only the main plant remains looking happy

Quite often the main plant in your pot will be fine but it will have lost its surrounding companions. Give your pot the compost and fertiliser treatment and then add some new young plants to cheer up and thicken up your display. Here we have tied up the evergreen clematis to the support and added some Pansies for spring colour and three 'Bloody Cranesbills' (Geranium sanguineum) for summer colour.



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