



**USA Tree**  
FRUIT TREES & EDIBLE GARDENS

# Potting Mix & Container Conversion Chart

Plan potting mix purchases and estimate how many nursery containers a bag will fill.

**1 cu. ft. = 7.48 U.S. gallons = 28.32 liters**

Volumes below are mathematical conversions of the nominal U.S. gallon sizes; actual nursery pots vary by manufacturer.

| Pot diameter | Approx. nominal container size | Mix per pot (cu. ft.) | Typical Bag Sizes            |                                |                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
|              |                                |                       | Pots 1 cu. ft. mix will fill | Pots 1.5 cu. ft. mix will fill | Pots 2 cu. ft. mix will fill |
| 4 in.        | 0.5 qt / 0.125 gal             | 0.017                 | 60                           | 90                             | 120                          |
| 5-6 in.      | 1 qt / 0.25 gal                | 0.033                 | 30                           | 45                             | 60                           |
| 7-8 in.      | 1 gal                          | 0.13                  | 7.5                          | 11                             | 15                           |
| 10 in.       | 3 gal                          | 0.40                  | 2.5                          | 3.7                            | 5.0                          |
| 12 in.       | 5 gal                          | 0.67                  | 1.5                          | 2.2                            | 3.0                          |
| 14 in.       | 7 gal                          | 0.94                  | 1.1                          | 1.6                            | 2.1                          |
| 18 in.       | 15 gal                         | 2.01                  | 0.50                         | 0.75                           | 1.00                         |
| 21 in.       | 20 gal                         | 2.67                  | 0.37                         | 0.56                           | 0.75                         |
| 24 in.       | 25 gal                         | 3.34                  | 0.30                         | 0.45                           | 0.60                         |
| 30 in.       | 30 gal                         | 4.01                  | 0.25                         | 0.37                           | 0.50                         |

## Buying & filling tips

- Buy 10-15% extra mix for settling, spills, top-dressing, and pots that are not filled to a uniform level.
- Do not pack potting mix tightly. Fill, water in, allow it to settle, then top off if needed.
- For an existing root ball, subtract the root-ball volume - a repot rarely requires the full listed container volume.
- Nursery "gallon" is often a trade-size label, not an exact U.S. liquid gallon. When precision matters, check the pot maker's volume.



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