

# BSFG GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING

## Planting Recommendations:

Although our planters are extremely durable, when planting up always protect them by covering with a protective layer or use the transport wrapping to ensure that drainage media or compost does not scratch the surface. Please note our planters are strong but will not cope with a tonne bag of soil or Hydroleca or a person standing on the lip. Damage caused this way is not covered under warranties.

Ensure that all planters being used outside have drain holes this will allow water to drain freely and avoid waterlogging and potential bowing of the sides. Always put a geotextile membrane at the bottom as this helps to filter any water coming through the drain holes and prevents soil from being washed away, therefore less mess on your patio. It is recommended to use 5 mm glazing packers to help free drainage especially under metal planters as an air gap will prolong their life from corrosion.

## From the bottom up:

- Ensure drain holes are provided.
- Line the base with a geotextile membrane.
- Fill 20% of your planter with a drainage medium, such as Hydroleca, to allow free drainage of any water going into your planter.
- Preferably add another geotextile membrane to hold the compost in place.
- Add a water retaining solution e.g. root refreshers.
- Fill with a planting medium.
- Your planter is now ready for trees, plants and shrubs!

## Weight Saving

This is necessary where roof loading is restricted or castors fitted to your planters. Polystyrene can be added to reduce the volume of compost. This can be in blocks to reduce the planting depth or chips added to the planting medium combined with Hydroleca. Adding sheet polystyrene to the sides will also protect your plant's roots from extreme temperature conditions.

Use a lightweight soil with a low clay content and water retention as this adds considerably to the dead weight of the planter.

