

REPOTTING

Repotting is a necessary part of a plant's life – just like a hermit crab outgrows its shell, so a plant can outgrow its surroundings and need to move to new digs. The process can be daunting for the novice but it really doesn't need to be. The simple instructions below should help.

When do you need to repot?

- Over time the nutrients in the soil will be consumed. Young plants in particular may require a change in compost every year.
- A plant can quickly outgrow its pot and require upsizing.
- Your plant might look unhappy but you aren't sure why – this may be caused by one of the reasons above, or you may need to repot in order to inspect the roots to find out the cause.

Key things to remember

- If a plant is happy, healthy and growing, there's no need to stress it out. Let it do its thing and don't disturb it by repotting.
- The best time to repot is soon after the plant starts to grow in the spring.
- Wait two weeks after repotting to water.
- Large plants can be repotted every 3–4 years.

TOOLS

- Gardening gloves
- Old paintbrush
- Plastic plant pot
- Compost
- Tablespoon
- Horticultural grit or decorative gravel
- Noose made of newspaper
- Long nose pliers

