

# GROWING IN YOUR RAISED BED



**A quick guide to get you started!**



# To successfully grow in your raised planter bed, here are a few basics you need to know!

## GROWING ZONE

A geographic area defined by climate conditions—primarily the average annual minimum winter temperature—that determine which plants can survive and thrive there.

CALGARY is predominately labelled as **4a**, and generally safe to plant perennials between the zones of **3b-4a**.

While summers are hot, the growing season is short, making it ideal for hardy vegetables, annuals, and perennials adapted to cold winters



## ANNUAL OR PERENNIAL?

### Perennials:

live for 2+ years, return year after year often growing larger.

Ideal for permanent landscaping options. Less maintenance, more expensive.

*Ex. Peony, Hosta, Echinacea*

### Annual:

live for 1 season, and require annual replanting. Ideal for seasonal pots, containers, and filling in gardens. More maintenance, less expensive.

*Ex. Petunia, Geranium, Viola*

## CALGARY SPECIFIC TIPS

- Calgary has a short growing season (late may-early september) due to risk of early spring/fall frost
- Most plants need 6-8 hours of sunlight per day - choose a sunny location to ensure optimal light
- Hot, dry, windy temperatures mean plants dry out easily - ensure to water deeply every 2-3 days
- Starting seeds indoors helps increase your plants growing/production season!



"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt,  
head in the sun, heart with nature." –  
Alfred Austin

## WHAT TO GROW

Leafy Greens  
Root Vegetables (carrots, turnips,  
beets, onions, potatoes)  
Peas and Beans  
Tomatoes

Annual Flowers  
Herbs  
Cucumbers  
Zucchini/Squash  
Peppers



## PLANTING DO'S and DONT'S

### DO

- harden your seeds before planting them outside
- water your transplants/seeds well
- ensure enough space between plants

### DONT

- overcrowd your seeds/plants to ensure each plant has ample growing room
- let your plants go too long before harvest
- forget to enjoy the process!

## GARDEN LINGO!

**Transplant:** moving a plant from one place to another

**Direct Sow:** plant seeds straight into the soil instead of starting indoors

**Harden Off:** gradually introducing indoor grown plants to outdoor conditions before planting

**Deadheading:** remove spent flowers to encourage new blooms

**Pinching:** removing the growing tip of a plant to encourage branching/bushier growth



# HOW TO READ YOUR SEED PACK

## How to read a seed packet

**General seed type**: TOMATOES

**Specific variety**: TM877 Gold Nugget CHERRY TOMATO

**Distance between mature plants**: 18-30"

**How much sun the plant needs**: full sun

**Number of days it takes for the first leaves to come up**: 60 days

**When to start your seeds**: 6-8 weeks before your average last frost date

**Days from sowing until harvest**: 60 days

**Year when seed will germinate best**: Packed for 2010

**How deep to sow the seeds**: 1/4"

**How warm the soil needs to be for seeds to sprout**: 70-90°

**Seed Depth**: 1/4"

**Days To Germination**: 6-14

**Light Requirements**: full sun

**Thin Plants to**: 18-30"

**Soil Temp. For Germ.**: 70-90°

**Seed Specs**: Min. germ. standard: 80%. Usual seed life: 3 years.

**PLEASE READ OUR SEED WARRANTY BEFORE OPENING THIS ENVELOPE**

**When to start your seeds indoors and outdoors, in relation to average last frost date.** (Some crops, like tomatoes, are not suited to sowing outdoors.)

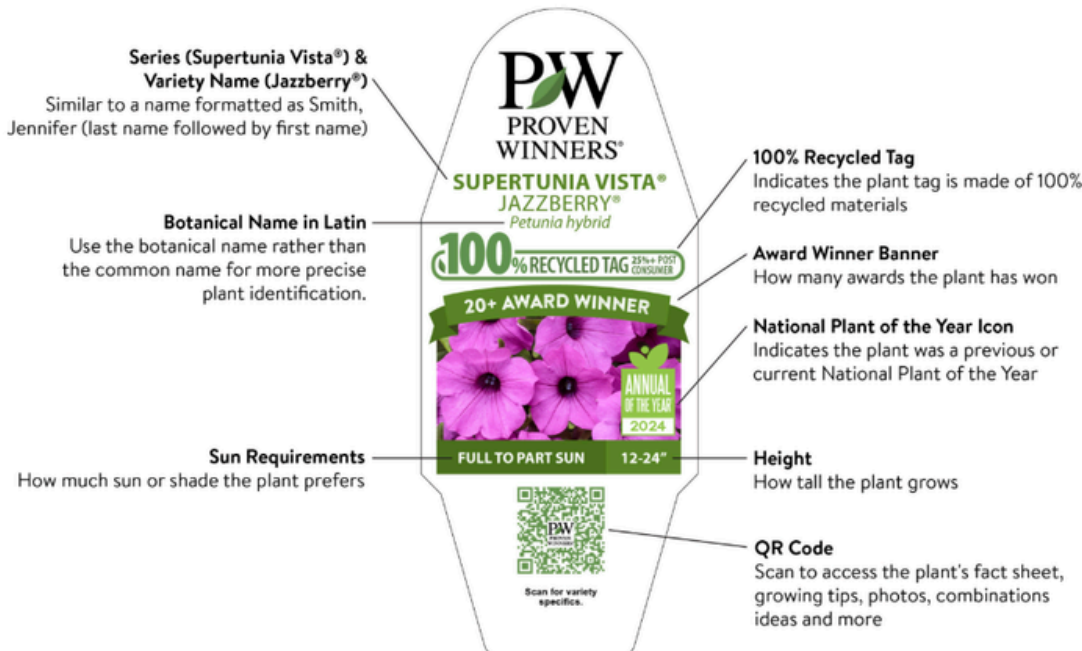
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**Territorial Seed Company**  
P.O. Box 158, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424

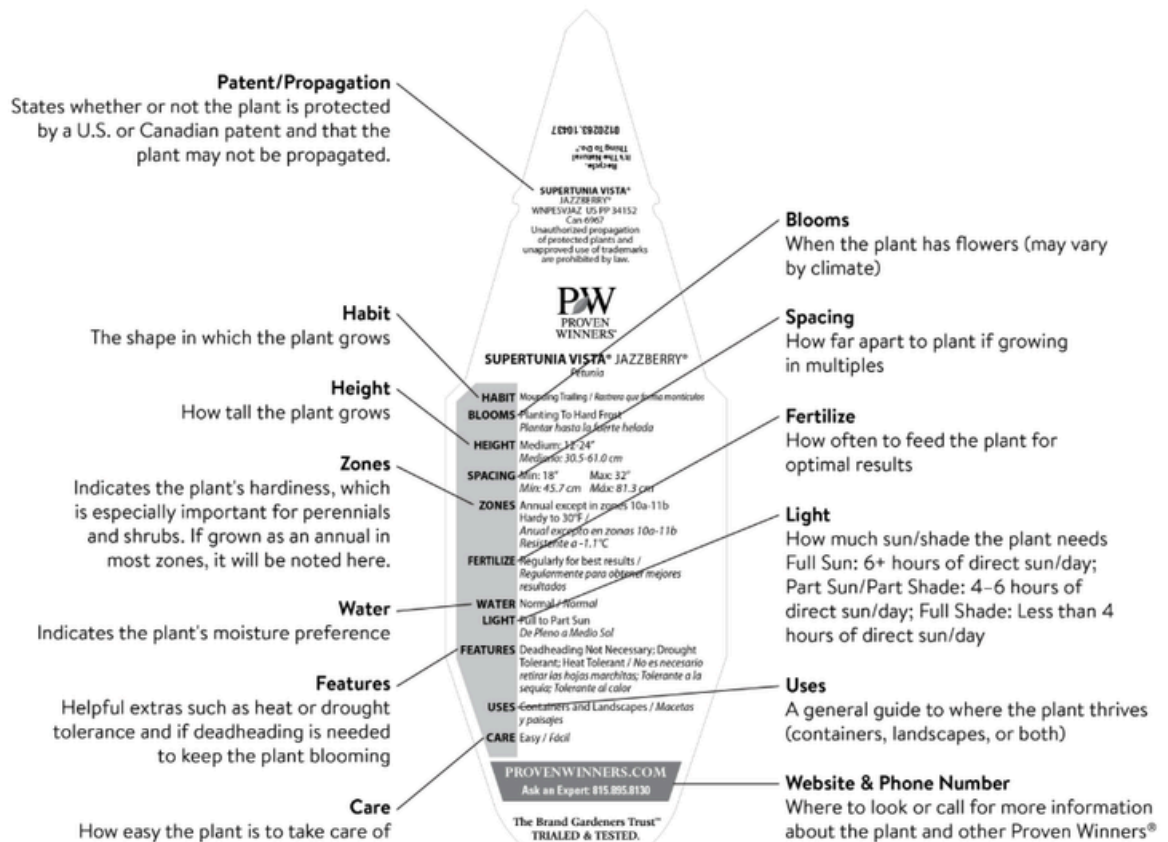
Phone orders and catalog requests: 541-942-9547  
Fax orders: 888-657-3131  
Web site: <http://www.territorial-seed.com>

# HOW TO READ A PLANT LABEL

## FRONT



## BACK



**CALGARY GARDENING**  
— ZONE 3b-4a —

Short season + cool nights  
Late frost until late May  
Full sun (6-8+ hours)  
Well-draining, rich soil

# GROWING IN YOUR RAISED BED

Plant the right crops in the right place for a healthy, productive raised bed all season long!

**HEIGHT REQUIREMENT**

Ensure structures (trellises, stakes, supports) are at least 2m (6.5 ft) tall to support vining plants.



**PLANTING GUIDE**

**COOL-SEASON CROPS**

Plant early (April-May)

- Lettuce**  
Quick & easy
- Spinach**  
Cold hardy
- Kale**  
Tough & nutritious
- Radishes**  
Fast & fun
- Peas**  
Great for trellis
- Carrots**  
Sweet & crunchy
- Beets**  
Great storage crop

**WARM-SEASON CROPS**

Plant after last frost (late May-June)

- Tomatoes**  
Cherry varieties work best
- Zucchini**  
High yield
- Beans**  
Bush or pole varieties
- Cucumbers**  
Use trellis to save space
- Peppers**  
Need warmth & sun

**HERBS & EXTRAS**

- Chives**  
Easy & perennial
- Parsley**  
Great all season
- Cilantro**  
Fast growing
- Dill**  
Great for pollinators

**RAISED BED PLANTING MAP (EXAMPLE LAYOUT)**



**SOIL BASICS**

- Use a rich, well-draining mix
- Add lots of compost (up to ~50%)
- Raised beds warm up faster and give better control over soil quality

**CARE REMINDERS**

- Water at soil level (not on leaves)
- Keep soil consistently moist, not soggy
- Weed regularly
- Harvest often = more growth!
- Be kind to plants & to each other

**SEASON AT A GLANCE (CALGARY)**



Good soil. Good care. Good growing.