

## **INSTRUCTIONS AND TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS**

**Insulated Plant Protector™** allows you to plant weeks earlier and then harvest your tomatoes, peppers, and other heat-loving plants up to 6 weeks earlier than usual. In addition, the early harvest allows the plants to produce up to 6 weeks longer, resulting in extraordinary overall production. This is especially true in northern latitudes where the season is shorter.

### **PREPARING YOUR SITE:**

Choose a site for planting that:

- Has a maximum exposure to the sun – all day, if possible.
- Has fertile, loose, and well-drained soil (amend the soil if needed).
- Is covered with dark (black, if possible) mulch or black plastic. This will allow the sun to heat up the soil to give you extra protection.

### **SETTING UP YOUR INSULATED PLANT PROTECTOR:**

Plant your tender plants up to 6-8 weeks earlier than normal.

1. After preparing the site and planting the plants, unfold your Insulated Plant Protector and form it into a circle with the open side up. TIP: If you place it around a 5-gal bucket, it may make filling easier.
2. Using the Easy-Fill Top Trough, support the cells as you go, and use a hose or watering can to fill the cells. Move from one to the next, filling each no more than 1/3 full until each of the 18 cells is filled to approximately the same depth. Caution: If using a hose, adjust it to a low water flow for better control.
3. Using both hands, carefully lift the Insulated Plant Protector and place it over the plant to be protected. Arrange the cells into a circle around the plant.
4. Carefully increase the water level 2-3 inches at a time all the way around. Be careful not to unbalance the cells by raising the level too much in any one area, as this might cause it to tip over. Continue filling until the water level all the way around is about 1 inch below the top of the cells. Note: Sides are extended above the cells to facilitate filling. The extended sides also help to close the center opening on cold nights.
5. Gently push the cells inward at the top so that "cone" is formed with only a small opening in the center.

### **IMPORTANT TIPS:**

- On very cold nights, especially if it is to stay cold for many hours, the top may be sealed closed temporarily using a rubber band. Be sure to remove the rubber band afterwards.
- On warm days, move cells to a wide open position for maximum air circulation. This will also allow the sun to hit the plant directly.
- The normal position is the cone position with the top open at the center, or with the film covering the hole on colder nights.
- Frequent collapse may be due to interference from wildlife or domestic pets. For added stability, create an internal support with plant stakes (tee-pee design allows you to open and close protector).
- When danger of coldest weather is past, cells may be filled completely to the top and the center can be left more open.
- After a snow, remove the snow from over and around the Season Starter as soon as you can.
- Insulated Plant Protector is constructed of 18 individual cells. If one leaks down, it still maintains over 90% of its effectiveness.

### **REMOVING YOUR INULATED PLANT PROTECTOR:**

1. Remove from plant when all danger of frost has passed.
2. Fold the top film down so that water can flow out of the top of the cells.
3. Place your hands inside and outside cells and squeeze two-thirds of the water out of each cell all the way around.
4. With both hands, lift the Season Starter off the plant.
5. Remove all the water, fold it flat along the seams for storage (out of the sun) for years of continued use.