Pot size and potting soil chart

Next pot size: go up 1 to 2 inches wider in diameter, not more. An oversized pot holds water the plant cannot use and can lead to root rot (University of Illinois Extension).

Nursery pots: what the label holds

Label	Soil it holds	Notes
No. 1 (trade gallon)	0.73 to 1 gal (2.9 to 4 qt)	About 183 cubic inches. Another source says a No. 1 pot can hold from 3 quarts to 1 gallon.
No. 3	2.5 gal (10 qt)	Roughly 10.5 in across and 9 in tall, varying by maker.
No. 5 (sold as 5 gallon)	3.55 to 5.03 gal (14.2 to 20.1 qt)	Pots sold as 5 gallon were found holding 3.55 to 5.03 gallons.

Sizes are approximate (trade sizes vary). Pots sold with the same label hold different amounts.

Soil in a round pot as deep as it is wide

Width and depth	Quarts	Liters	Cubic feet
4 inches	0.9 qt	0.8 L	0.03 cu ft
6 inches	2.9 qt	2.8 L	0.10 cu ft
8 inches	7 qt	6.6 L	0.23 cu ft
10 inches	13.6 qt	12.9 L	0.45 cu ft
12 inches	23.5 qt	22.2 L	0.79 cu ft
14 inches	37.3 qt	35.3 L	1.25 cu ft

Our arithmetic: pi × radius × radius × depth, with 57.75 cubic inches to a quart. Most pots narrow toward the bottom, so they hold less. Treat the figures as the most you will need. Grow bags are sold by their nominal gallon size, which varies by maker, so the calculator takes the number on the bag.

Last checked 2026-11-25. Facts come from the sources below; where sources disagree the chart says so.

Sources

- Nature Hills Nursery: What Do Nursery Container Sizes Mean? — https://naturehills.com/blogs/garden-blog/what-is-the-difference-between-container-sizes (checked 2026-11-25)
- GrowJourney: Garden Pot Sizes Decoded — https://www.growjourney.com/finally-garden-pot-sizes-decoded/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Illinois Extension: Houseplants, get started — https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/get-started (checked 2026-11-25)
- Colorado State University PlantTalk: Repotting houseplants — https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/houseplants/1316-houseplants-repotting/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Illinois Extension: Tips for repotting houseplants — https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2018-03-19-tips-repotting-houseplants (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension, Wayne County: Repotting houseplants — https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/news/repotting-houseplants (checked 2026-11-25)

LINK TO THIS CHART
https://aberdeenflorist.com/downloads/#pot-size-chart
Live version with the same data: **https://aberdeenflorist.com/tools/potting-soil-calculator/**

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