

## Directions for creating a Self Watering Container

### Items needed:

Two 5 gallon buckets  
4 inch wicking plastic container or pond basket  
Drill and drill bits  
Jig Saw  
Hole Saw  
Plastic bag for cover  
Bungee cord or rope  
1"x18" PVC pipe (optional for top watering container)  
Potting Soil

### Directions:

#### Inner Bucket:

Use either a small pond bucket as a wick or the bottom of a half gallon plastic milk jug. If using a milk jug, cut off the top portion leaving 6 or more inches of the square bottom, drill 10-15  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch holes along the sides of the jug. Trace the square of the jug on the bottom of one bucket. This will be the inner bucket. Drill holes in the four corners of the traced square. Cut out this square using a jigsaw or keyhole saw so that the wicking basket will fit snugly in the hole. Drill 15-20 small  $\frac{1}{4}$ " randomly dispersed holes in bottom of the inner bucket. Fill the small half gallon milk jug with potting soil. Compact the soil in the container slightly. Slide the wicking basket with soil into the square hole of the inner bucket. The bottom of the milk jug should stick out of the bottom of the bucket about 4-5 inches.

Take the outer bucket and drill a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch hole about 4 inches from the bottom. This will be your watering hole. Alternatively, if you would like a top watering container, cut the bottom of the 1" by 18" PVC pipe at an angle. The angled end will be the bottom of the fill tube. Using a hole saw, cut a hole in the bottom of the inner bucket close to the edge that is big enough to fit the fill tube tightly. Slide the PVC pipe through the hole in the inner bucket so that the angled end touches the bottom of the outer bucket when they are stacked. If you use the PVC pipe for the fill tube, you need to drill an overflow hole to prevent overwatering. To do this, place the inner bucket inside the outer bucket, drill a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " hole in the side of the outer bucket just below the bottom of the inner bucket.

Place the inner bucket inside the outer bucket. Fill the inner bucket with potting soil completely to the top. Press the soil down lightly and fill so that there is a small mound. With your finger, form a small trench about an inch from the outside of the soil. Pour  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup fertilizer in the trench. Cover with soil. Cover the soil with a plastic trash bag or grocery bag. Attach the bag to the bucket with a rubber band, string, or bungee cord. Trim away the excess plastic. Cut a large (3-4 inches square) "X" shape in the middle of the plastic. Place your plant inside the "x" in the soil. Fill the reservoir of the bottom bucket with water through the watering hole or top PVC pipe. Check water levels every 3-4 days and keep reservoir filled.

Enjoy gardening!

## Try planting these vegetables in your new self watering container!

### Warm Season (using transplants)

Beans--bush, pole, Lima	Plant--Feb-Apr
Peppers	Plant--Jan-March
Tomatoes	Plant--Jan-March
Eggplant	Plant--Jan-March
Summer Squash	Plant--Feb-March

\*Any dwarf varieties of other vegetables

### Cool Season

Brussels sprouts	Plant--Oct-Nov
Broccoli	Plant--Aug-Jan
Cabbage	Plant--Sept-Jan
Chinese cabbage	Plant--Oct-Jan
Endive	Plant--Jan-Feb
Kale	Plant--Sept-Jan
Kohlrabi	Plant--Oct-Mar

\*These are just some of the vegetables that do well in self watering containers.