

WICKING BOX INSTRUCTIONS

- I am no expert but have made several different types. Below is the easiest version that I have found. If you Google wicking gardens there are lots of different versions and ideas. I have found this type of gardening especially good for lettuce as it stops dirt being washed into the leaves and keeps them consistently moist. Have Fun! Sue
1. A bucket, broccoli box or anything that will hold water is suitable to make a small garden.
 2. Put a layer of gravel in the bottom of the container approx 10cm
 3. Stand a piece of poly pipe or pvc pipe up in the corner or edge. It needs to be slightly higher than the container.
 4. Cover the gravel with either hay or shredded paper.
 5. Fill the container with potting mix.
 6. Put a hole in the side of the container approx half way up as an overflow.
 7. Plant out your seedlings or seeds.
 8. Initially the plants will need to be watered from the top but once they are established in a week or so, water through the watering tube until it overflows through the hole in the side.
 9. You will find as the plants 'wick' (as in candle) or draw the water from the bottom instead of the top, that the top will form a crust. This will help stop evaporation.

WICKING GARDEN BED INSTRUCTIONS

- Once again I am no expert and this is just what I have done myself (with Andrew's help) at home. I cannot speak highly enough of these beds. My vegie patch is hot and windy and this year I have had the best crop of corn ever thanks to my wicking beds. Whilst holidaying over summer I only had to water once and came home to flourishing vegies.
1. You can build a bed out of almost anything, sleepers, logs, bricks, old tanks, whatever you can lay your hands on.
 2. Line your bed with black plastic.
 3. Lay irrigation pipe in the bottom of your bed, making sure you leave one end sticking out above the edge of the bed. Irrigation pipe is quite inexpensive and is about 7cm across, but any pipe that has holes along it can be used. (weeping hose not suitable) Andrew blocked off the end with an old bottle. You can buy this at most hardware shops.
 4. Cover the pipe with a layer of hay or shredded paper.
 5. Put a hole through the plastic as an overflow.
 6. Fill up the bed with soil, manure and compost. You will find that over time as the hay breaks down you will need to top up the bed.
 7. Plant out your seedlings or seeds.
 8. Initially the plants will need to be watered from the top but once they are established in a week or so, water through the watering tube until it overflows through the hole in the side.
 9. You will find as the plants 'wick' (as in candle) or draw the water from the bottom instead of the top, that the top will form a crust. This will help stop evaporation.
 10. Another handy trick I have found is to set the timer tap on and put the hose securely in the watering tube. What an easy way to do your watering.