

# Self Watering Containers



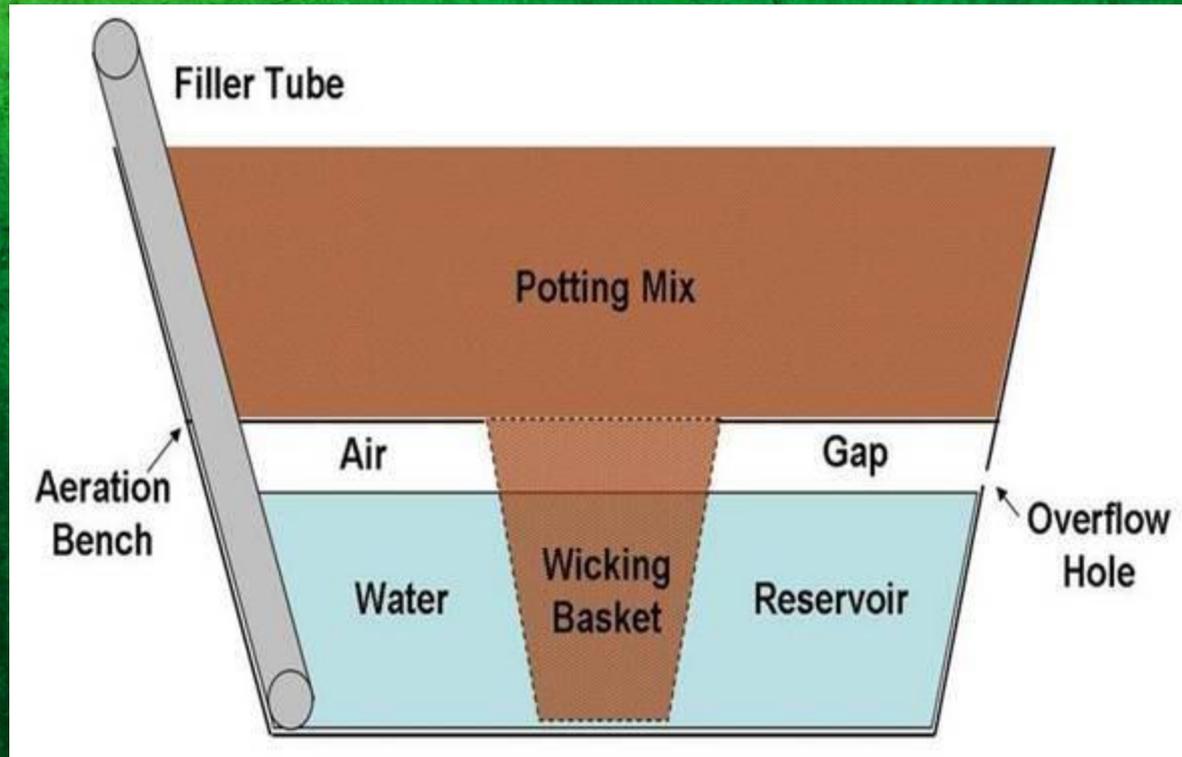
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and

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# What is a self watering container?



# What are the benefits?

- Watering is easy, and less frequent
- Plants get water consistently, and when they need it
- Soil is consistently moist but never waterlogged as in a traditional container
- Nutrients stay in the soil instead of draining out of the container
- Plants grow steadily, as quickly as they can, and the result is tasty food!

# Downsides?

- When you have many containers, watering can sometimes take a bit longer
- Length of your hose could impact your watering schedule

# Can you buy them?



EarthBox - \$30



Garden Patch - \$40



City Pickers Patio Box - \$50



Tomato Barrel - \$30

# Make One Yourself!



# Sourcing Materials

## 5 Gallon buckets (\$8 dollars)

- Food grade is preferable (can be obtained from restaurants)
- Hardware Stores (Home Depot, Lowes) are most reliable source

## Colanders (\$1-\$2 dollars)

- Colanders from more common retailers (Target, Sears) can be expensive or unsuitably shaped
- Dollar stores or Asian food markets have the best deals

## Straws: (Ideally Free)

- Look for wider diameter and stronger plastic for greater durability
- IKEA wider drinking straws (100 for \$1.59) / McDonalds Milkshakes

## PVC Pipe (\$.50 per piece)

- \$3 for a 10 foot length
- Yields 7 pieces at 17 " long

# What do you put in it?

- Pre-mixed “container mix” “potting soil” or “potting mix” *without* water-retaining additives (hydrogels)
- The best mixes will have sphagnum peat moss and perlite.
- Sphagnum peat moss holds less water than sedge peat and coir but wicks it just as well.
- Make your own! 50% Organic container mix, 50% Compost (Leaf Gro)

To fertilize or not to fertilize?  
Depends on the quality of your mix and the  
appetite of the plants you are growing. You  
will most likely need to supplement your  
growing medium with additional nutrients.

## Read The Label!



Just a few things you can do...







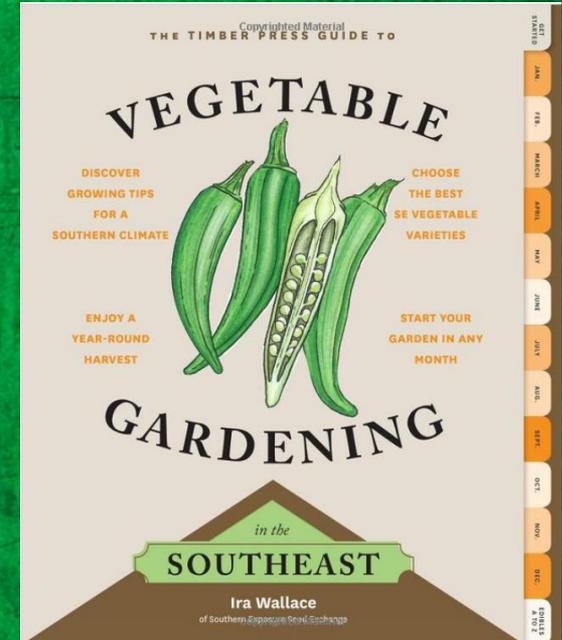
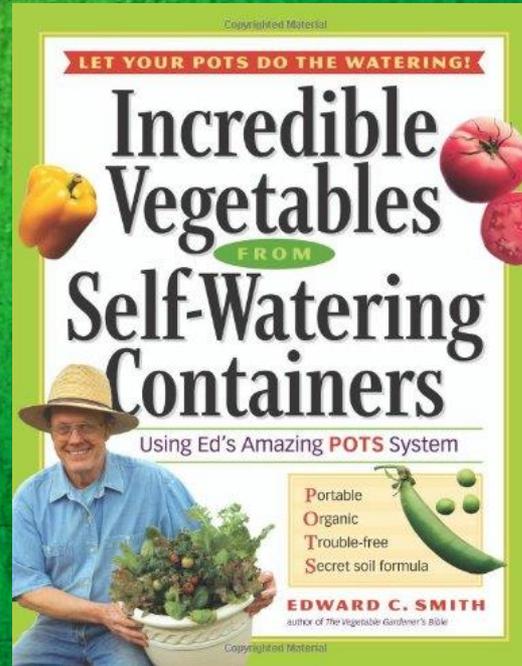
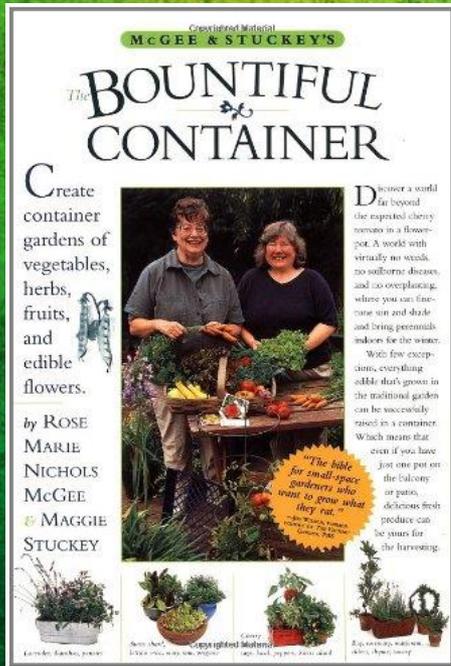
# What grows best?

- Chard
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- All Asian greens
- Bush beans
- Basil
- Broccoli
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Eggplant
- Onions
- Carrots
- Calendula
- Marigolds
- Dianthus
- Nasturtium
- Sunflowers

# What would prefer a traditional container?

- Most Herbs (terra cotta especially)
- Potatoes

# Resources



<https://extension.umd.edu/growit>

Online Forums:  
Daves Garden  
GardenWeb

Self Watering Salad Table:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Self-Watering-Veggie-Table/>