

DIY Two Bucket Sub-Irrigated Planter

Materials & Tools

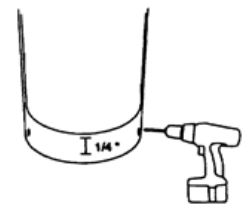
- 2 each – 5 gallon food-grade buckets
- 1 each - ½" pvc pipe, cut about 15-18", cut angle on bottom edge
- 1 each - 3" hydroponic net cup
- Power drill with ¼" drill bit, 7/8" paddle bit and 3" hole saw
- Piece of landscape fabric or coffee filter to wrap net (optional)
- Approximately 2 cups of peat moss to fill net cup
- Approximately .75-1 cubic feet of good quality potting soil mix
(DO NOT USE GARDEN SOIL)
- Plastic soda or water bottle to create funnel for water (optional)
- Duct tape to tape funnel to top end of PVC pipe (optional)



BOTTOM BUCKET

Step 1 – Mark placement of two overflow holes on each side of bucket approximately 2-1/2" up from the bottom edge of the bucket

Step 2 – Drill overflow holes with 1/4" drill bit

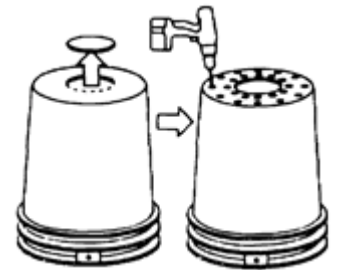


TOP BUCKET – Turn upside down to drill holes

Step 3 – Using 3" hole saw, drill hole in center bottom of top bucket

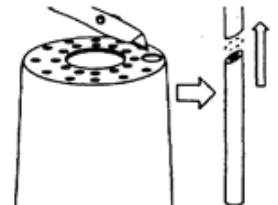
Step 4 – Drill about 20-25 ¼" holes in bottom of top bucket around the 3" center hole, leaving space along edge for the 7/8" hole for water fill tube hole

Step 5 – Using 7/8" paddle bit, drill hole for ½" pvc pipe water fill tube in bottom of top bucket near edge of bucket



Step 6 – Place top bucket inside bottom bucket

Step 7 – Fill net cup with peat moss, if available, if not just use potting mix, press firmly in cup
(OPTIONAL - Cut piece of landscape fabric to fit in bottom of top bucket and wrap around net cup before placing in the 3" hole in the bottom of the top bucket)



Step 8 – Place net cup in hole and press down into hole

Step 9 – Place ½" fill pipe into the 7/8" hole in the bottom of the top bucket

Step 10 – Fill bucket about one quarter full with damp potting mix pressing firmly, continue filling with potting mix, more loosely and add plant at appropriate depth and fill with potting soil within 1-2" from top edge.



Step 11 – Add water in the pvc fill tube until water comes out of the overflow holes. Check soil at top, only water at top unless soil is dry but it should stay moist about 1" from the top if reservoir is filled every 2-3 days.

Step 12 – OPTIONAL: Add funnel to top of pvc water fill tube to aid in watering *(Note: The top of a 2-liter plastic soda bottle fits nicely over the end of the ½" pvc fill pipe, duct tape to hold in place)*

