

# Grow Bucket

A grow bucket uses the same concept as an “Earth Box” -- it’s a fail-proof means of container gardening that ensures your plant always has just the right amount of water (provided you water it). You provide a continuous reservoir of water and the system wicks up as much water as the plant needs as it needs it. The design for this grow bucket is adapted from one found in “The Essential Urban Farmer” by Novella Carpenter and Willow Rosenthal.

## Supplies:

- 2 - 5 gallon buckets
- 2-3 feet of pvc
- small plastic container w/ sloped sides

## Tools:

- hack or chop saw
- drill
- hole saw/drill bit
- small drill bit

## Instructions:

The buckets will be nested to become an “inner” bucket and an “outer” bucket. When nested, a 2-3” reservoir is created between the two bucket bottoms.

Cut a desired length of pvc tube and angle one end at about 45°<sup>(1)</sup>. This will be the watering tube. The length needs to be a couple inches taller than the two nested buckets, but may be taller. You may want to use the pvc as a stake for whatever you’re planting, or you may prefer the tube to be less conspicuous.

Using a hole saw, drill a hole the same diameter as the pvc in the bottom of the inner bucket near the outer edge. <sup>(2)</sup>

Find a small, shallow plastic container with sloped sides (like a small sour cream container). Discard the top and cut 4 vertical slits evenly spaced along the sides. This will end up being the “wick” of the system.

Center the small container over the bottom of the inner bucket and trace both the small and large end of the container<sup>(3)</sup>. Using a hole saw drill a hole that is in between these two sizes<sup>(4)</sup>. The container should fit snugly in the hole but not fall through the hole and protrude enough to access the reservoir between the two buckets but not touch the bottom bucket.<sup>(5)</sup>

Remove the wicking container, turn the inner bucket up-side-down and drill a series of small wholes in the bottom for drainage.<sup>(6)</sup>

Nest the inner bucket in the outer bucket and drill two small holes through two opposite sides of the outer bucket just under the bottom of the inner bucket.<sup>(7)</sup> These will be the overflow holes. If you can’t see where the inner bucket ends, figure it out and make a mark. It’s important that these holes are just under the bottom of the inner bucket.

OVER →



**Instructions:** *(continued)*

Assemble the system: <sup>(8)</sup>

- Nest the inner bucket in the outer bucket -- this should create about a 2-3 inch reservoir in the bottom of the outer bucket under the inner bucket.
- Insert pvc tube through hole in inner bucket with the angled side down -- this ensures that water poured in the tube will flow freely into the reservoir.
- Place the wicking container into the center hole -- the container should protrude into the reservoir but not touch the bottom bucket.

Fill the inner bucket with soil and plant your plant(s)<sup>(9)</sup>. When you set up the system give the bucket a good watering directly in the bucket (this is the **ONLY** time you will water the plant directly).

From now on you will **water ONLY through the pvc tube**.<sup>(10)</sup> Pour water into the PVC each time until the water starts to seep out the small overflow holes in the outer bucket. Do **NOT** water the plant directly. Be sure to keep water in the reservoir. The soil will wick water from the reservoir as it needs it and maintain a perfect balance.

