

Building your own Earth Box

Intro: Building your own Earth Box

Supplies include 2 Rubber Maid or Sterilite 18-22 gallon tubs with lids, 1 pond basket, and 1 pvc tube at least 1 1/2 inch diameter and 4 inches taller than the tub you buy.



Image Notes

1. Here are the supplies I used.

Step 1: cutting the water reservoir

Cut a hole in bottom of one of the tubs to fit the pond basket and the water tube (the pvc pipe)





Step 2: cutting and fitting the reservoir into the primary tub

Mark 1/3 up from the bottom of the cut tub all the way around and, using a Sabre saw, cut it apart.

Place the cut a part tub bottom upside down into the whole tub. Force it in if you have to. Add the strainer into the hole you cut.



Step 3: Making the drain holes

Drill a water leak hole, 1/2 inch diameter, in the each side of the other tub, up 1/3 up the side of the tub.



Step 4: Placing the water tube through the lid

Take the lid and cut a hole to fit the pvc pipe.



Step 5: What do you want to grow

Decide what you want to grow and cut appropriate holes in the lid. It works good for 4 tomatoes, or 8 pepper plants, or 2 tomato plants and 4 basil plants.

Now fill the tub with purchased growing soil mixed with a little aged manure and some vermiculite right to the top. (Everybody has their own mixture they like.)?Put a time release fertilizer like Osmokote down the middle of the soil top.

Add the lid and fill the reservoir with water, through the pvc pipe until water comes out the leak holes. Plant the plants in the lid holes. Don't use big plants. The smaller plants will just fit into the hole. You'll have to maneuver them into the holes carefully. They will recover.

If you're doing cukes or pole beans, just plant seeds.

The plants will not need to be watered more than once a week until late in the season, when the leaves evaporate the water, when 2 or 3 times a week water is needed.

Stake the tomatoes on the porch railing, or other trellis. I have pole beans growing up strings onto a pole. Have fun!



Step 6: Enjoy and enjoy!

Here are some of my tubs last year by the end of July in northern Michigan. I had more pepper and tomatoes that ever before. The cukes were just about the right production level, and this year I'm trying pole beans too. The first year I also grew 6 eggplants and they were wildly successful too.



