

DIY Two Bucket Sub-Irrigated Planter

Materials & Tools

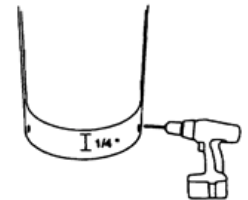
- 2 – 5 gallon, food-grade buckets
- 1" pvc pipe, cut about 3" longer than bucket, cut angle on bottom edge
- 3" net cup or 3" tall recycled plastic container
- Box cutter to cut slits in recycled plastic container, if not using net cup
- Power drill w/ ¼" drill bit
- 1" paddle bit and 3" hole saw
- Plastic soda or water bottle to create funnel for water (optional)
- Duct tape to tape funnel to top end of PVC pipe (optional)
- Piece of landscape fabric or poly netting to put in bottom of top bucket before adding soil (optional)
- Good quality potting soil mix (DO NOT USE GARDEN SOIL)



BOTTOM BUCKET

Step 1 – Place buckets inside each other and mark overflow hole placement, ¾ - 1" from the bottom of the top bucket, hold buckets up to light to see inside bucket bottom edge.

Step 2 – Drill overflow holes, one on each side of bottom bucket



TOP BUCKET – Turn upside down to drill holes

Step 3 – Using 1" paddle bit, drill hole for water fill tube in bottom of top bucket near edge of bucket

Step 4 – Using 3" hole saw, drill 3" hole in center bottom of top bucket

Step 5 – Drill about 20-25 ¼" holes in bottom of top bucket around the 3" center hole

Step 6 – Place top bucket inside bottom bucket

Step 7 – Cut piece of landscape fabric to fit in bottom of top bucket and place inside

Step 8 – Cut slit in center of landscape fabric to be able to place net cup through and where pvc water fill tube will be inserted, cut edge into reservoir

Step 9 – Place net cup in hole and press down into hole

Step 10 – Fill net cup with peat moss or coir, if available, if not just use potting mix, press firmly in cup

Step 11 – Fill bucket about ¼ way 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 12 – Water bucket from the top to saturate the soil, for future watering use the water 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. (Create funnel if desired and tape to pvc water fill tube)

