

Hydroponic Kit Contents and Instructions:

Contents:

- (1) 2-inch net cup
- (1) Peat puck
- Hydroponic fertilizer (One packet makes 1 gal of nutrient solution)
- (approx. 64 oz capacity) Nutrient solution reservoir with 2" hole in lid

Instructions:

Step 1: In a small container, soak the peat puck in water (warm water works faster to rehydrate the puck) until thoroughly saturated. Use a weight to keep the peat puck down in the water.



Peat Puck (Left - Dry, Right - Wet & Expanded)

Step 2: 2 Options - Add your plant of choice (Leafy greens such as lettuce, chard, herbs, bok choy, etc works best for this size of reservoir).

- Option #1 – Nursery bought seedling
 - Rinse as much of the soil as possible from the roots. You don't need to remove every bit of soil...just as much as possible without damaging the roots.
 - Slice expanded peat puck on one side, open, and put the seedling into the peat puck. Try to get most of the roots into the peat puck. It is okay if some dangles below.

- Option #2 – Starting by seed
 - Place a seed in the center of the expanded peat puck. Follow the seed packet instructions for suggested planting depth. Alternatively, for some seeds, they can be started in water and when the seeds have germinated, they can be moved into the peat puck.
 - Keep the seedling in a closed container until the 3rd leaf (aka true leaves) begin to emerge – The seed has all the nutrients needed to get started. Nutrient solution is not required yet.
 - Once true leaves emerge, move to step 3.



Seedling with 2 Seed Leaves



Seedling with a True Leaf

Step 3: Placing your expanded peat puck with the plant in the reservoir

- Place the expanded peat puck with the plant in the provided net cup.
- Push down on the top sides of the peat puck and make sure the bottom of the peat puck is below the horizontal bar of the net cup by up to 1/4"



Bottom of peat puck is too high



Bottom level of peat puck is about right

Step 4: Making the nutrient solution

- A thoroughly cleaned and sanitized (bleach and warm water) 1 gal water or milk jug works well as a mixing container. Make sure to thoroughly rinse out any remaining bleach.
- Empty the contents of the hydroponic fertilizer bag into a 1-gal container and fill with water.
- Stir or shake thoroughly to mix well until fertilizer is fully dissolved.
- If you do not have a separate mixing container, you may also mix the fertilizer directly in the nut jar - Put 1/2 of the hydroponic fertilizer bag into the nut jar, add water to desired level and stir until fertilizer is fully dissolved. Move to Step 5 to determine the proper water level.

Step 5: Filling the reservoir

- Fill in the reservoir with the nutrient solution. Repeat and make additional solution if needed to fill the reservoir.
- Place the net cup into the hole of the reservoir lid and close/screw on tightly. The nutrient solution level should reach the horizontal bar on the side of the net cup.

- The water level should be 1/8"-1/4" up from the bottom of the peat puck. Adjust the water level, if necessary.
- If the water level is too high, then the plant will have difficulty developing oxygen roots.
- Label and store any left-over nutrient solution in a sealed container and in a cool, dark location.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Step 6: Placement of the reservoir with plant (Indoors vs. Outdoors)

- Indoors:
 - Place the reservoir in a south facing window or use artificial lighting.
 - For the best results, plants need a minimum of 12 hours of light.
 - For artificial lighting, the height should be adjustable to accommodate the growing plant. For regular lights, the most desirable height is a couple of inches above the plant. For special grow lights, follow the manufacturer recommendations.
- Outdoors:
 - Find the best location for your plant. It should be in a full or partial sun location depending on the type of vegetable.
 - If possible, wrap your reservoir with aluminum foil or other reflective material to minimize sunlight getting into the reservoir (to avoid algae growth) and to keep the nutrient solution from getting too hot.

Step 7: Harvesting and replacing nutrient solution in the reservoir

- Harvest your plant often and enjoy fresh greens
- Check the water level weekly depending on the type of vegetable you are growing. A bigger plant consumes more water than a smaller plant.
- In 4-6 weeks, the reservoir should be nearly depleted and it's time to either harvest and start a new plant or replenish the nutrient solution to continue the current plant growth.
- Refill nutrient solution as needed but only to about 50%. If there is too much water, the plant can drown.
- When the plant has been fully harvested, clean the reservoir and net cup with warm water and soap. They can be used over and over. You are now ready to grow a new plant.

Most importantly enjoy and have fun while enjoying home-grown hydroponic greens.