Wicking Hydroponics:
A Soilless Growing Method

UC Master Gardener
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Fill tube: Pour nutrient solution into tube to refill reservoir.

Typically, PVC pipe from local big box hardware store.

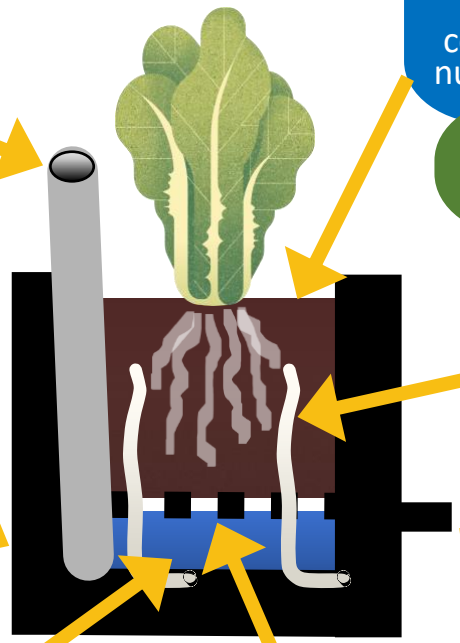
Grow media: Helps anchor the plant and provides consistent water and nutrients to the roots.

Common materials: coco coir, perlite, vermiculite, clay balls.

Key tips:

Ideal for root and fruiting vegetables.

Don't forget to refill the reservoir.



Reservoir: Watertight area that holds nutrient solution.

Usually, made of plastic.

Wick: Brings water and nutrients from reservoir to the root zone.

Common materials: nylon, polyester, cotton.

Nutrient solution: Special hydroponic fertilizers come in powder or liquid forms and mix easily with water.

Available online and at specialty retail stores.

Media separator: Keeps the grow media separate from the nutrient solution.

Common materials: plastic, weed barrier, fiberglass screen.

Overflow tube: Limits the height of the reservoir and prevents excess nutrient solution in the grow media.

Usually, plastic irrigation drip tube.

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