

Self Watering Containers



1. Recycled bins, abs pipe and juice bottles. Pipe is cut at an angle on the bottom and inserted in the large juice bottle



2. Holes are drilled in all sides of the juice containers, including the large one.



3. Juice containers are placed in the bottom of the bin.



4. A drainage hole is drilled just below the top level of the juice jugs. Make sure that it is on the side that the filler tube sits so that you can see the overflow when you water.



5. The lid is trimmed to hold the pipe upright. It will add support to prevent the bin from bowing and also anchor mulching fabric across the top. A small flower pot is placed between the juice containers and will be filled with soil or Perlite to act as a wick. Recycled Styrofoam pieces or Styrofoam packing pellets fill in the empty spaces and hold everything in place.



6. The flowerpot is filled with soil or perlite. Everything is covered in landscape cloth.



7. The bin is filled with a good mix of compost or manure, commercial soil, perlite and peat moss. Tomatoes are planted two to a container. Lower leaves are trimmed off and the tomato is planted as deep as possible to encourage rooting along the stem. I add a tablespoon of epsom salts and another of ground egg shells to each planting hole.



8. X's are cut in the landscape cloth for the filler tube and tomato plants. Tomatoes are carefully threaded through.



9. The trimmed lid is fit over the whole to add support to the container and anchor the landscape cloth that will keep weeds and digging squirrels out. Tomato cages are put in place and water is added to the reservoir via the filler tubes. Excess water drains from the hole drilled in the side of the tub.