

“Plant It And Forget It” Gutter Gardening System

Whether you're a farmer, truck driver or business owner who travels a lot, Larry Hall says with his rain gutter garden system, there are no excuses not to grow a vegetable garden.

“Plant it and forget it,” he says. “You don't have to weed or water for 4 1/2 months, and the plant decides when it wants water.”

At first, he planted tomatoes in 5-gal. buckets set inside other buckets. But he needed to add water every morning and night.

“I loved the results, but it was too much work,” says the Brainerd, Minn., gardener.

After research and experimenting he developed his rain gutter system, which holds nine 5-gal. buckets, self-waterers, and costs less than \$65.

In a step-by-step YouTube video (with nearly 105,000 views) he shows how to frame standard 10-ft. vinyl rain gutters with end caps inside treated 2 by 4s. Hall drills 2 7/8-in. holes in the bottom of each bucket (or pot) so that a 3-in. net cup (used in hydroponics) fits snugly. It allows water in the rain gutter to be drawn up into the potting mix to water the plant. Water is constantly available thanks to adjustable plastic floats (\$9) connected to the end of the

rain gutter. When the water drops to a certain level, the float opens to add more water. With additional plumbing, several gutters can be connected to one water source.

To ensure that the buckets stay in place on the rain gutter frame, Hall suggests zip tying them to stakes driven in the ground.

“I have over 100 buckets that are filled with all types of vegetables,” Hall says. He appreciates the results - both for the food he grows for his family and for the feedback he gets from his YouTube fans.

A charter high school in New York built nine systems. A UK gardener sent him photos of her system with lush tomato plants growing. Older gardeners write him that gardening is fun again. Plants are at a good height, there is little - if any - weeding and they don't have to guess when plants need watering.

With a following of gardeners all over the world, Hall has posted a number of YouTube videos of his gardening ideas that include details of products he uses and where he finds them. Just type Larry Hall into YouTube.com.

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Larry Hall says with his gutter gardening system, “You don't have to weed or water for 4 1/2 months.” Each 10-ft. long vinyl gutter holds nine 5-gal. buckets.



Hall frames gutters with end caps and plastic floats inside treated 2 by 4s. A 3 in. net cup at bottom of bucket allows water to be drawn up into potting mix.



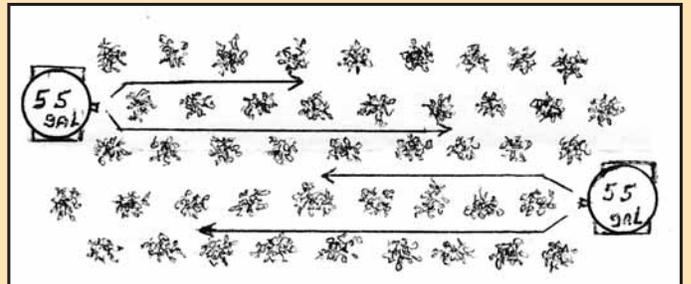
What Makes My Garden Grow?

“Other gardeners have asked me for years how I get so many vegetables out of a limited size garden. My secret is that I flood my rows with home-brewed fertilizer,” says John Saterides, Bowman, S.C.

“I cut the tops off 55-gal. barrels, paint them flat black, and cut a 1 1/2-in. dia. hole near the bottom of one side into which I insert a round wood plug. I stand the barrels between rows of vegetables on 8-in. concrete blocks.

“Next I fill the drums with any manure I can find - horse, cow or chicken - and then top it off with water. I put a board over the top and let the sun cook the content of the black drums into compost tea. Every few evenings, I pull the plug to fill the rows with rich tea fertilizer and refill the drums for another day. It's easy and really pays off.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Saterides, 266 Fernview St., Bowman, S.C. 29018.



John Saterides floods the rows in his garden with home-brewed “compost tea” cooked in 55-gal. barrels painted black. Barrels stand between rows on 8-in. blocks.

Time To Ditch That Old Hand-Pumped Sprayer?

After tossing out multiple hand-pumped garden sprayers over the years, Ben Martin discovered Polish-made Kwazar sprayers. The young produce grower says once you try one, you'll never go back.

“It's perfect for spraying almost anything,” Martin says. The sprayer's Viton® seal is chemical resistant. He knows of customers who have sprayed mineral oil and diesel fuel with it.

Because of the way it sprays a fine mist for uniform absorption on leaves, Kwazar sprayers are ideal for gardeners. They're dependable and don't leak.

With a dual action pump, the Kwazar delivers two fine mist sprays per stroke, and the nozzle adjusts for heavier streams. The heavy-duty containers include a transparent scale for accurate mixing and will spray from every direction.

Martin liked the sprayers so much he now works with Cushman Creek Supply, the U.S. distributor. Models range from a 1-liter hand sprayer (\$19) up to a 15-liter backpack sprayer for \$130. All include free shipping.

Martin welcomes dealer inquiries and invites people to check out the videos on the Kwazar website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kwazar Sprayers, Cushman Creek Supply, 9276



Kwazar sprayer pumps a fine mist for uniform absorption on leaves.

Skeels Rd., Holton, Mich. 49425 (ph 866 678-7157; sales@kwazarsprayers.com; www.kwazarsprayers.com).



A thick layer of “city leaves” keeps weeds to a minimum.

City Leaves Mulch His Garden

“I love to garden but I hate to pull weeds,” says Clint Reynolds, Clarksville, Tenn., who came up with a simple method to eliminate weeds that also makes his garden look great.

“In the fall, the Clarksville street department has a leaf pickup program. I called and asked if they could deliver some of those leaves to me. Soon I had three truckloads of bagged leaves in my yard. I stored them inside off the ground so they stayed dry until spring.

“After tilling the garden and planting, I applied the leaves fairly deep. They prevent

weed growth and retain moisture. They add some nutrients to the soil but mostly serve as earthworm food. The worm castings that result provide the real benefit.

“Once the garden is done in the fall, I run the lawn mower over it, grinding the leaves and garden stalks into a fine mulch that gets worked into the soil.”

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