

Wicking beds

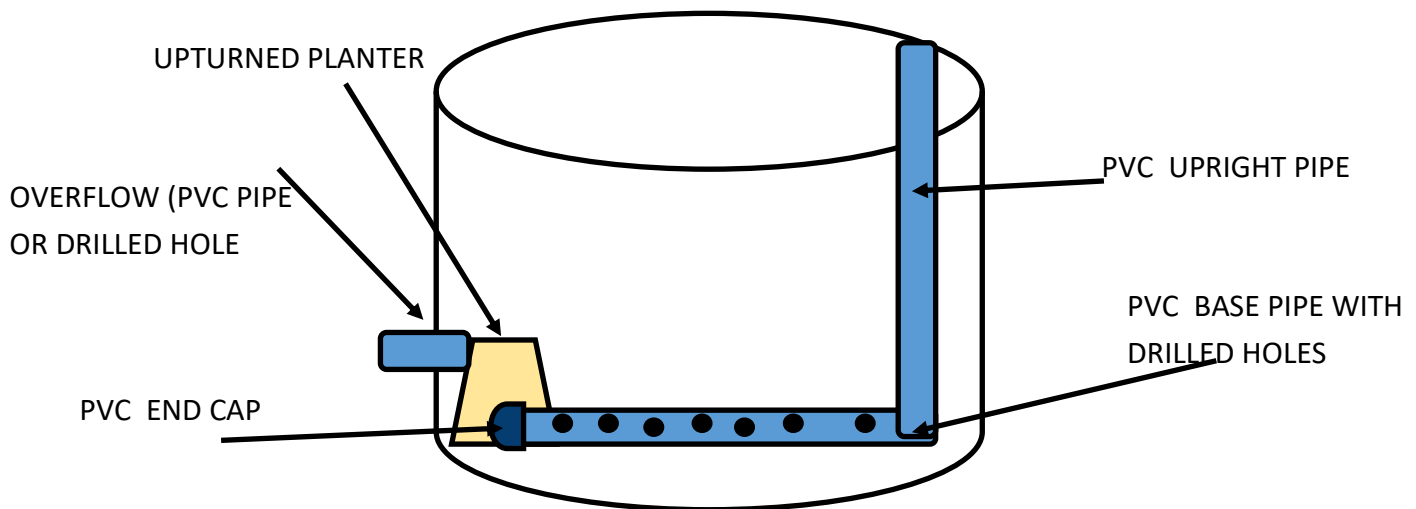
Wicking beds are a garden bed or planter with a water reservoir at the bottom. Water “wicks” up from the reservoir into the soil. Water is also fed to the plant within the ground rather than on the top of the soil. Ideal for our hot summers and water conservation. These will only require watering about once a week. Here is instructions making one from a recycled plastic olive barrel. Most items are available from your recycle centre.

You will need

Small recycled planter pots	Gravel or similar
PVC pipe , elbow and end piece	Soil
Plastic olive barrel	Mulch

Step1. Cut your barrel in half.

Step2 Place your upturned pots into the bottom of the tub and measure the height of the pots. This will be the water reservoir. Drill your overflow hole or place PVC pipe through for a water overflow at this level.



Step3 Measure and cut your PVC pipe across the base of the base of the tub. Fit the elbow and the upright PVC pipe. Adjust the pipes to the correct high and length , cut to suit. Drill holes at intervals in the base pipes (about every 1.5 -2cm) to allow for easy flow into the reservoir.

Step4. Place upturned pots into the base of the reservoir, around the base pipe.



Step5. Place gravel, (or coarse wood mulch) or other small media into the base around the pipe at the base and just above the overflow outlet and up to the top of your pots. The gravel material and pots fills the reservoir to support the soil, but creates spaces for the water. Filling the reservoir this way helps against mosquitoes in he reservoir.

Step6. Lay recycled shade cloth or similar recycled material on the gravel in the reservoir.

Step7 Fill with soil to about 15cm below the top of the barrel.

Step8. Mulch the top of your soil to prevent moisture loss. (About 10cm deep)

