

# Rainbow Gardens

## Wicking Bed

A wicking bed is a type of raised garden or planter that waters plants from a reservoir underneath the soil. The water wicks up into the soil as the plants need it, resulting in improved production and minimal water usage.

### Materials Used

- 3-2"x12"x 8' cedar boards (cut 1 in half)
- Carpet remnant to prevent puncture of pond liner
- Pond liner larger then frame 6'x10'
- 8'x2" diameter PVC pipe
- 1- PVC cap
- 1-5'x9' weed barrier or shade cloth
- 4'- 1" PVC pipe
- Wood decking screws
- 1-4x4x4 (cut in 4-12" pieces to brace corners)
- 14-21 bags 1.5-2.5 size river rock or about 1 1/2 yds
- Soil for containers either bagged or about 1 1/2 yds

### Tools Used

- Circular saw
- Level & Drill bits
- 1" hole saw cutter for PVC
- Measuring Tape
- Staple Gun
- Hammer
- Shovel
- Wheel Barrow
- Scissors
- Utility knife Hacksaw

Keep in mind there are many ways to make a wicking bed and we encourage you to be creative. This is how this bed was built.

Special thanks to San Antonio Aquaponic Group for building the bed and supplying instructions. The bed was built August 2014 as a workshop.



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Prepare area and level.

Lay a protective fabric or carpet cut a bit larger than the frame. Screw frame together using a 12" brace in each corner and secure to frame for extra support.

Lay on top of carpet and make sure it is level.

Lay pond liner inside frame, flatten and level, we brought the sides up to the top of the frame and secured with staples.

Fill with washed river rock to about 6" deep and level.

Lay PVC fill pipe that has been drilled with holes to distribute water.

Fit elbow on one end and bring PVC fill pipe straight up above soil level to chosen height and cap top to keep out mosquitoes.

Lay weed barrier or shade cloth over entire bed. We brought the sides up to the top of the frame and secured with staples.

Drill a 1" hole just above soil level in the side of a board where you want it to drain.

Secure a screen or piece of shade cloth on one end of drain pipe so the soil will not clog, then lay the 4' x 1" PVC at a slight angle sloping down and out the hole in the side, this helps with the drainage.

Add soil and pack down firmly, and add water to reservoir until it comes out drain tube, then top water until water comes out the drain tube. This activates wicking action.

Now you are ready to plant. If you would like a finished look around frame you can cover the sides of the boards with furring stripes. This will also cover the liner and soil barrier and keep them from deteriorating.

Now it is time to plant!

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