

"Hydroponics Gardening"

Space and Water Efficient Gardens for Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers



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Potential Benefits and Applications of Hydroponics

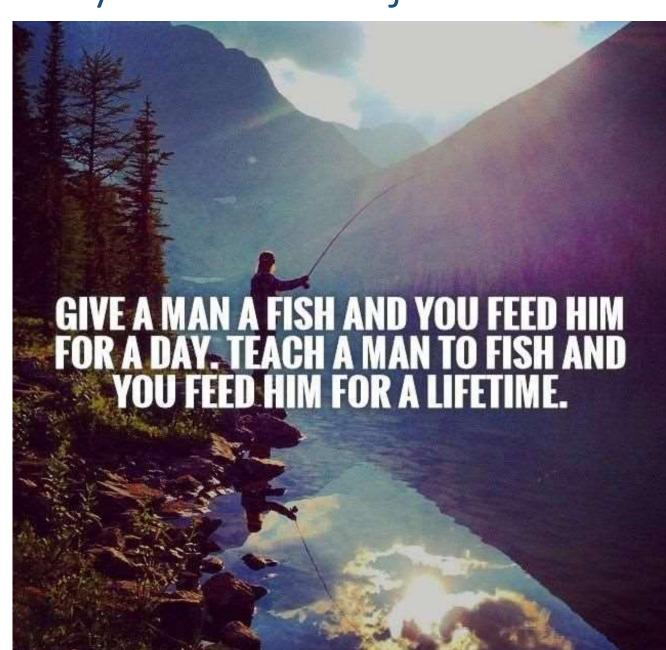
Scalable:

- 1. "Do It Yourself" project
- 2. Large scale for education of business
- Space and water efficient gardening for vegetables, herbs, or flowers
 - There are variations of Hydroponics Gardening and similar technology
- Grow plants faster
- Can have extended growing season
- Opportunity to learn innovative gardening technology
 - Can be applicable to adults of children of all ages
- Can be done by people safely during COVID restrictions

Hydroponics as Community Service Project

- People can want to grown own food but don't have space, knowledge, etc.
 - Address "Food insecurity"
- Could be a "community service project" for a club or organization
- Initial system in place at Bastrop Transitional Housing Shelter

https://www.itshuh.org/



Attributes of Hydroponics for Gardeners or for Community Service Project

- Utilize current gardening skills in an innovative way
- Could be approach for people in apartment, homeless shelter, etc. for "grow you own food" and learning opportunity for "innovative gardening"
- System planned for "Towers Nursing Home in Smithville
- Hydroponics garden is compact, light weight, and modular/expandable
- A hydroponics system is less space intensive and destructive then a traditional garden and can be dismantled and relocated by a renter
 - 27 cu ft of dirt (typical raised bed can be 3'x9'x1') weighs between 2000 (dry) and 3000 lbs. (wet)
 - 30 gallons of water (four 5' PVC tubes plus pump container) weighs 250 lbs.
 - Complete system without water is lightweight

Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Aeroponics Overview

- Example info:
 - https://www.epicgardening.com/hydroponics-for-beginners/
 - https://originhydroponics.com/hydroponics-vs-aquaponics-vs-aeroponics/
- Hydroponics: The plants roots are "submerged" in a continuous flow of nutrient based water
- Aquaponics: similar except fish provide nutrients
- Aeroponics: The plants roots hang in the air & a sprinkler system sprays them with nutrient based water rather than it being submerged



- Environmentally responsible with low water usage and low power usage
- The primary inputs to the system are water and nutrients
- Small space
- Less work (e.g., no weeding)
- Low Susceptibility to pests and diseases

Some Considerations for Hydroponics Gardening

- Compact, modular size permits use of small space such as compact greenhouse or even indoors year round
- Aquaponics good for some vegetables, herb, and flower plants but probably not appropriate for most root crops
- Growing season may be extended by moving indoors or using a green house
 - Water can be more readily heated or cooled than massive volumes of dirt Also may be extended by controlling temperature of the water
 - Cool in summer, heat in winter Might be good community support or education project

Hydroponics Approaches

- There are multiple commercial suppliers
- Example of a DIY systems:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ewOsgoGQL4
 - Uses 27 gallon plastic container, aquaponics cups, pump, and PVC pipe
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfyInGL-RXc
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJjAWF2DfWY
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oETmA6AJQk
 - Use 4" PVC pipe (schedule 20) with 2 ¾" holes
 - 3" cups

Hydroponics System for Home or Institution

- Five 4' long tubes of 4" PVC pipe (Lowes 24140)
- Connect tubes using 4" PVC end caps, and 1" PVC adapter and tubing
- Make frame of either wood 2x4s, PVC, or a combination
 - Space required is approximately 6' by 5'
- Install submersible water pump in 27-gallon opaque storage container under frame
 - Connect input and output to PVC tubes
- Build enclosure using poultry screen and frame
 - Protect plants from squirrels, birds, and racoons
 - Could hold plastic sheeting in cool/cold months
- Optional for extended growing season: heat or cool water to approximately 70 degs

Indoor Hydroponics System

 Started July 2022 at home in Smithville

• There is also an outside system



Sep 8, 2022

Outdoor Hydroponics System

Aug, 9 2022





Hydroponics Garden Project at ITS-HUH

Did project for use at <u>ITS HUH Ministry Giving Families Hope. Giving Everyone a Second Chance.</u> and to serve as prototype





Possible Location for Hydroponics Gardening System at Towers Nursing Home

- System will be outside for safety but visible from a main Towers meeting room
- Plant selected for viability during Texas heat and interest for residents
- Can be an "gardening activity" for residents



Commercial Hydroponics Gardening Facility

- Hydroponics gardening on a large commercial scale
- Grow plants in perfect environment in any climate or location all year round
 - Much more efficient in term of water, space, and time than traditional gardens
 - "Microclimate" can be established to grow specific plants
 - Example: facility can be used to emulate a specific location to grow a specific plant
- Example uses:
 - for business: Produce premium quality produce (e.g., leafy vegetables, Lettuce)
 - For education: learn "better way of producing food"

Commercial Hydroponics Gardening Facility

Freight Farms | Hydroponic Shipping Container Farms



Empowering you to grow food, no matter where you are.

Feed your community. Combat food insecurity. Start a container farm.















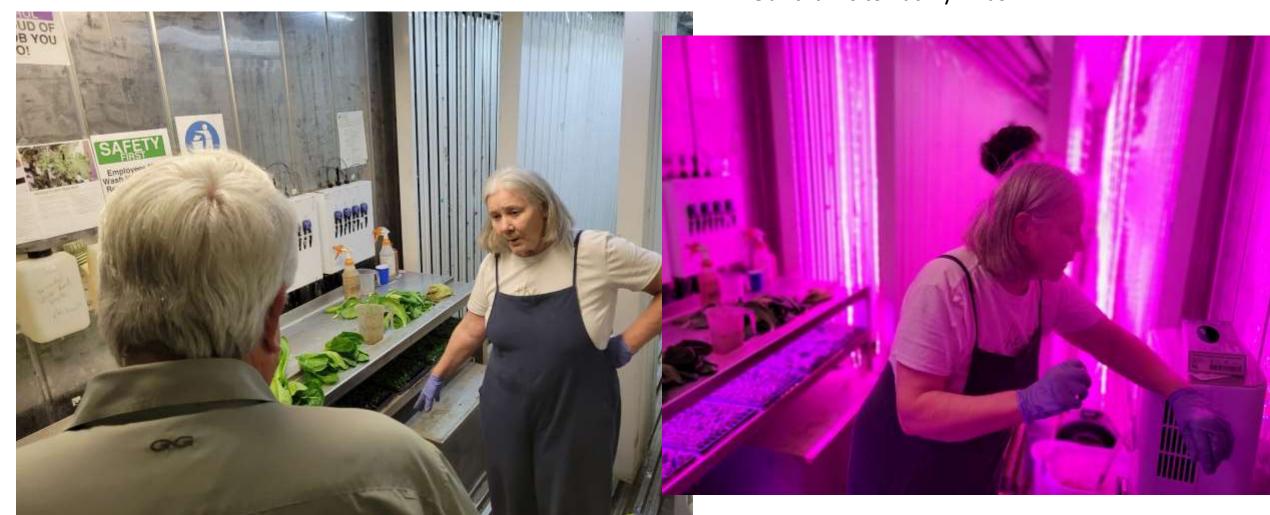






Commercial Hydroponics Facility Near Smithville/Bastrop: Tour August 4, 2022

Our thanks to Kathryn Nash



Commercial Hydroponics Facility Near Smithville/Bastrop: Tour August 4, 2022 Kathy Nash and Garrison Borel

• Garrison will start at TSTC in "Industrial Systems"

Robot farming helps grow produce using 90% less water and electricity than traditional farms - Bing video

This type of farm is mostly an "Industrial System"



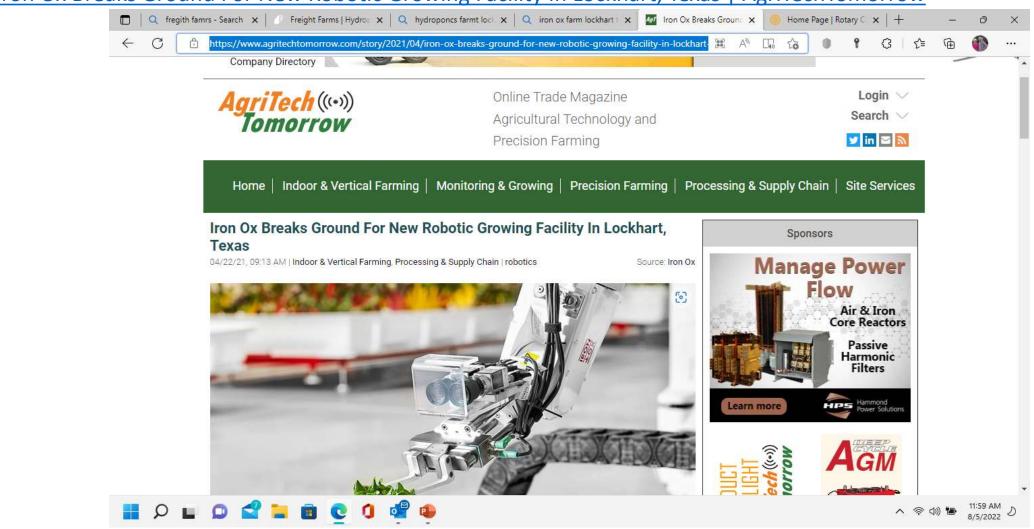


Possible Opportunities for Large Scale Hydroponics Gardening Facility

- Education at Smithville (or Bastrop) ISD: Learn "Modern farming technology" and produce vegetables (and flowers) for school use
- Career preparation at Smithville Workforce Training Center: make this a career path
- Business: A person or organization buys a system such as from "Freight Farms" and grows and sell produce (or flowers) for profit

Really Large Scale Modern Gardening

- Food IronOx in Lockhart
- Robot farming helps grow produce using 90% less water and electricity than traditional farms Bing video Iron Ox Breaks Ground For New Robotic Growing Facility In Lockhart, Texas | AgriTechTomorrow



Iron Ox Hydroponics-Robotics Gardening Facility



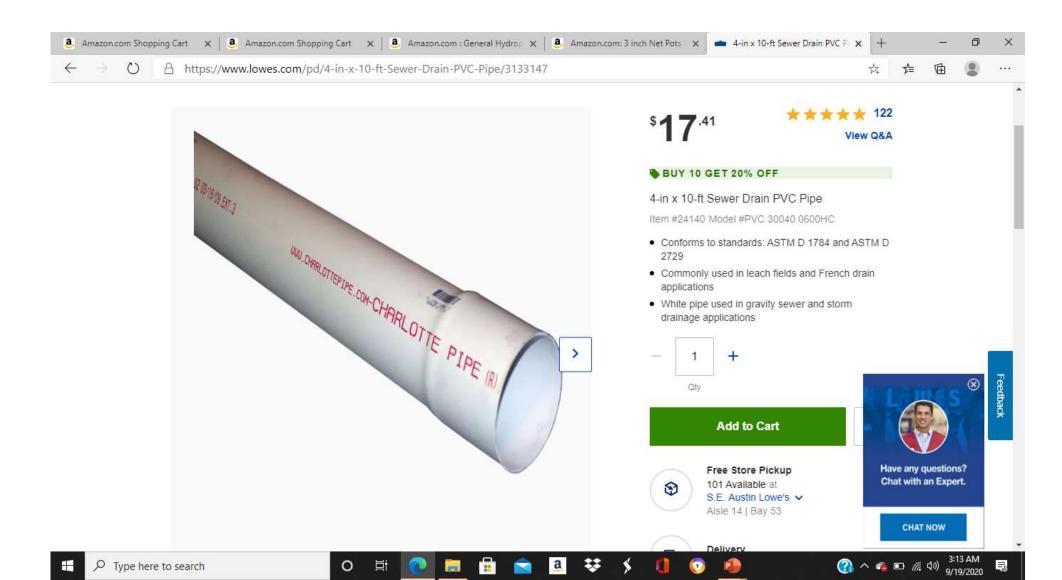




Materials for Home Hydroponics Garden

Backup slides
Will send with presentation to Club members

PVC Pipe, 4" Sewer

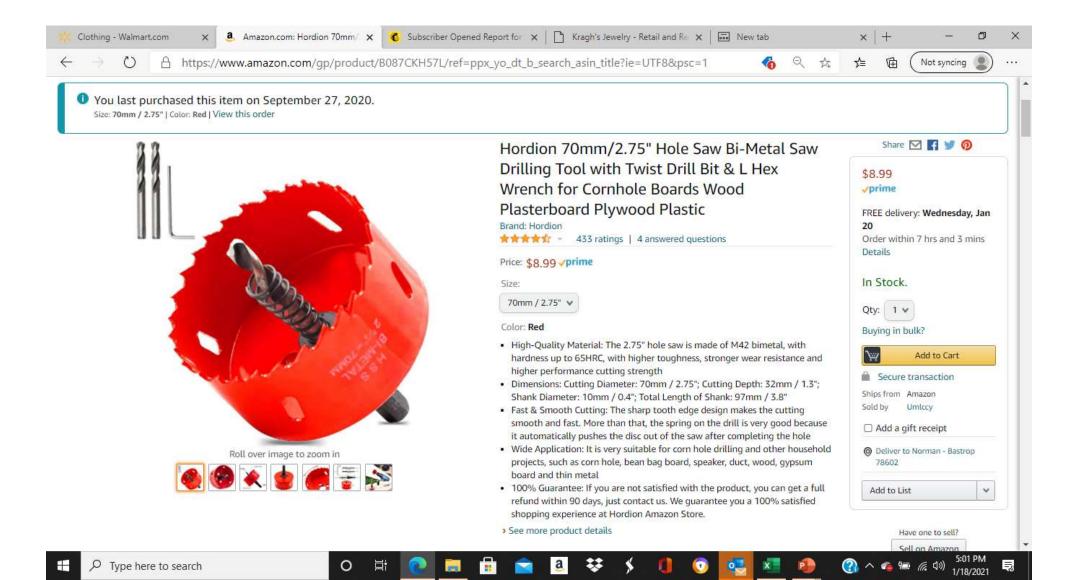


Example Tube for Model System at ITS-HUH



October 7, 2020

Hole Saw for PVC Pipe



27 Gallon Storage Tote for Water and Pump

- Needs to be opaque to exclude light which could lead to algae
- Hold water pump (and optional aerator)
- Place under frame



Bulkhead Fitting for 4" PVC cap for Tubes

Amazon \$12.99



to zoom in

XMSSIT 4 Pieces 3/4 Inch PVC Bulkhead Fitting with Plugs and 4 MM Thick Silicon Seal Gasket for Rain Barrels, Aquariums, Water Tanks, Tubs, Pools

Brand: XMSSIT

青青青青青 Y

18 ratings

Price: \$12.99 prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

- Dimensions: 47 mm x 58 mm, 3/4 inches, Material: PVC, Color: Grey; Applicable models: Suitable for most rain buckets, water tanks, ponds or aquariums
- Function: The lock nut is reverse-threaded, and its contour will be consistent with the shape of the round barre
- Durable: Compared with standard plastic separator joints, PVC is durable and has a longer life without discoloration, cracking or peeling
- Easy to install: One-time installation, screwed from the front, can be used for commercial and industrial purposes
- Packaging including: 2 pieces of 3/4 inch PVC partition accessories, enough to use on the water tank, you can share with family and friends, they are a good tool

Compare with similar items

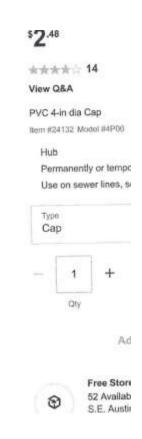
Report incorrect product information.

Plastic Fittings

Caulk to prevent leaks

Lowes 24132 \$2.48







·.80

Genova 3/4-in D

Item #22203 Mode

- . Use in cold wate
- · Connects to poly
- · Install with hose

Size - Diameter 3/4-In



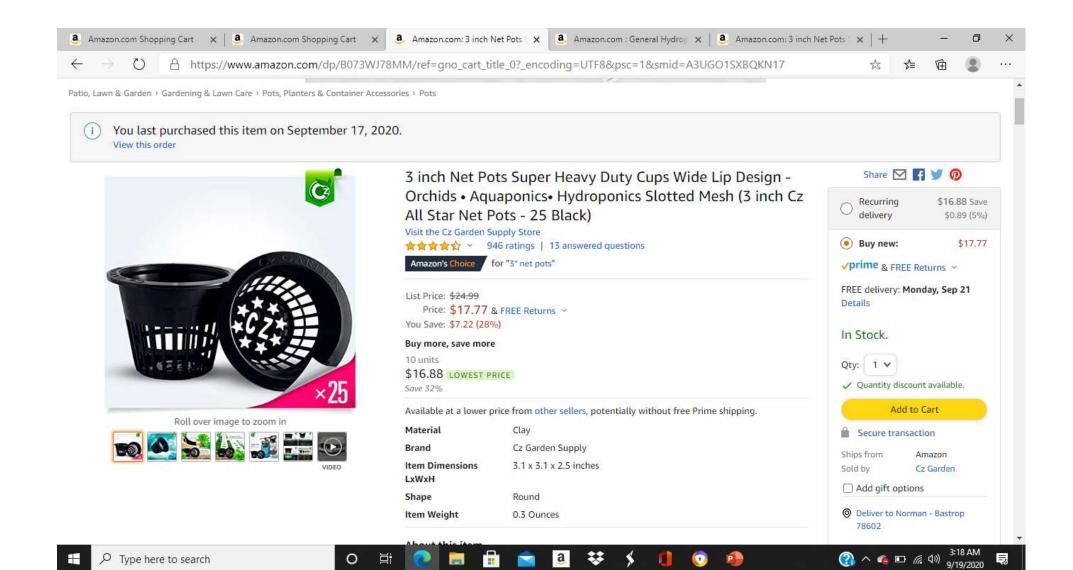
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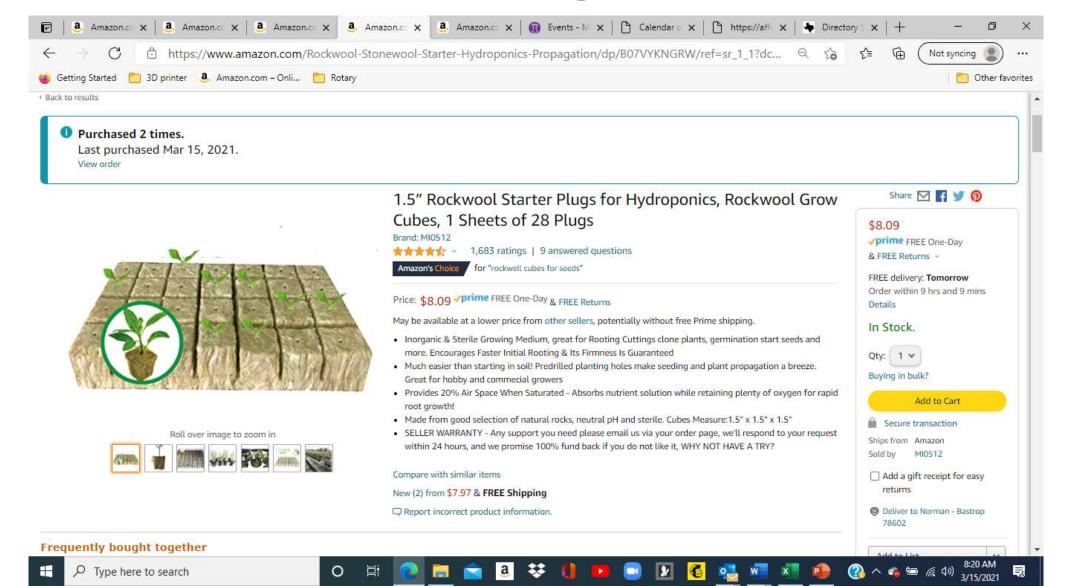


Pree S 21 Ava Bastro Alsie E

Net Pots



Better Plant Starter Plugs



Plant Starter Plugs



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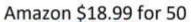














Roll over image to zoom in

























General Hydroponics HGC714135 Rapid Rooter Plant Starters, 50 Plugs, Black

Brand: General Hydroponics

★★★☆ ~ 3,622 ratings | 211 answered questions

Amazon's Choice | for "rapid rooter"

Price: \$18.99 & FREE Returns

- · Rapid rooter plugs are fortified with general hydroponic micronutrients for abu
- . The optimal air-to-water ratio within the plug matrix results in explosive early r growth
- · Use rapid rooter for robust early rooting that supports explosive plant growth
- · 50 Plugs per bag, bags sold individually
- . Measures 10-1/2-inch length by 12-inch width by 3-1/2-inch height

Compare with similar items

New (14) from \$18.99 /prime FREE Shipping

Report incorrect product information.

Seed Starter - 2 Inches Smart Seeds Starter Plugs Soil Seedlings Cuttings Organic Dry Out Rooting Hydroponics Supplies Rapid Root (1 Pack of 50 Counts)

Visit the COLMO Store

19 ratings | 5 answered questions

Price: \$18.99

FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

- · [Standard PH Soil]: COLMO Seed starter are cultivated with US standard pH values and contain environmentally friendly and biodegradable micronutrients. It is recommended to soak the smart seeds in hot water for 10-15 minutes, and squeeze the soil sponge appropriately to make it fully absorb the water, which can be slightly increased to 2 " square and 1.6" deep.
- [Reserved Seed Hole Design]: The reserved seed hole design is used for the seed screwdriver plug. In order to ensure the germination rate and survival rate of seeds, we studied the appropriate depth, otherwise it will cause the seeds to be exposed to the outside. After we have soaked all of our soil, we just need to tuck the seeds into the soil surface.
- [Unique Drying Design]: Seed starter plugs use drying technology to avoid moldy because of moisture. It only needs to be immersed for 3-5 minutes before use. Seed driver plugged. These smart seed starter plugs are recommended for use with the COLMO Indoor Herb Garden Kit to ensure reliable seed rooting and successful seed germination.
- [Soil Size and Planting Range]: Smart seed plugs screwdriver plug size: 2 "square X 1.6" deep. The size of the soil after soaking: 2.2 " square X1.6 " deep. If you use

Submersible Pump for Water and Nutrients

Color: Black



UPMCT 60-400 GPH Adjustable Submersible Water Pump, Ultra Quiet High Lift Detachable Cleanable Water Pump with 2 Nozzles for Aquarium, Pond, Statuary, Hydroponics (200-400-GPH)

Brand: UPMCT 204 ratings | 16 answered questions 含含含含含 ~ Amazon's Choice for "250 gph submersible water pump" Price: \$17.99 / prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns Size: 200-400 GPH 60-120 GPH 120-200 GPH 200-400 GPH \$13.99 \$15.99 \$17.99 prime 400-800 GPH 521.99

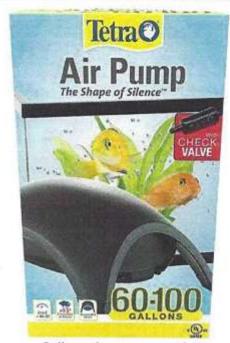
Circulates water through the PVC pipes 400 gph = 6.67 gpm 27 gallon system gets recirculated every 4

minutes

Aeration of Water (Optional but Desirable)

You last purchased this item on May 11, 2020.

Size: 60 to 100-Gallons | View this order



Roll over image to zoom in



Tetra Whisper Air Pump with Minimal Noise and Maximum Air Flow

Visit the Tetra Store

4,356 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "tetra whisper air pump with minima...

Price: \$25.68 & FREE Returns

Available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially without free Prime shipping.

Size: 60 to 100-Gallons

10 to 20-Gallons 20 to 40-Gallons 2 options from \$9.99 2 options from \$10.19 60 to 100-Gallons 40 to 60-Gallons 9 options from \$11.96 8 options from \$22.26

- · POWERFUL: Tetra Whisper Air Pump provides dependable airflow to your aquarium.
- · QUIET: Patented dome shape, suspended motor and

Air pump for aeration of watequind-dampening chambers for quiet operation. . ELIMINATES VIBRATION: Designed with a wide footprint \$25.68 from Amazon and rubber feet.

Air Stone for Water Aeration

Amazon \$15.99



VIVOSUN 2 Pcs 4X2 I Air Tubings Combo fo Air Pump

Visit the VIVOSUN Store

★★★★

✓ 4 ratings

Price: \$21.98

Bundle Price: \$15.99 \(\text{prime} \)

You Save: \$5.99

- Designed to add oxygen and circu
- · Extend the life of your nutrient si
- · Produce fine bubbles for oxygen
- Air Stone Size: 4" X 2" X 2"; Air Ti
- · Fit for hydroponic systems, pond:

Report incorrect product informa

Volume and Weight Calculations

- 10' of 4" PVC pipe hold 6.5 gallons and weighs 54 lbs. when full
 - With Hydroponics assume pipe is 75% full (4.9 gallons)
- Four 5' sections will hold 9.8 gallons
- 27 gallon tote holds about 22 gallons when about 80% fill
- Total volume of system is approximately 30 gallons
- 30 gallons of water weights 250 lbs.
 - 1 cu yd of soil (typical raised bed 9'x'3'x1') bed weighs between 2000 and 3000 lbs.

Hydroponics Nutrients

Hydroponics plant food Amazon \$79



General Hydroponics Flora Grow, Bloom, Micro Combo Fertilizer, 1 gallon each, Pack of 3

Brand: General Hydroponics

331 ratings | 14 answered questions

Price: \$79.00 & FREE Shipping

Not eligible for Amazon Prime. Available with free Prime shipping from other sellers on Amazon.

- Gh flora series is the original building block nutrient system imitated but never duplicated. Contains complete primary, secondary and micro nutrients for enhanced yields and better crop quality
- Users can adjust mixtures to suit specific plant needs.
 Enhances flavor, nutrition, aroma and essential oils in both hydroponic and soil cultivated plants
- Contains highly purified concentrates for maximum solubility
- Ph balanced for ease of use. Nasa and Antarctic research scientists choose flora series -- because of its superior formulation and reliability

Roll over image to zoom in

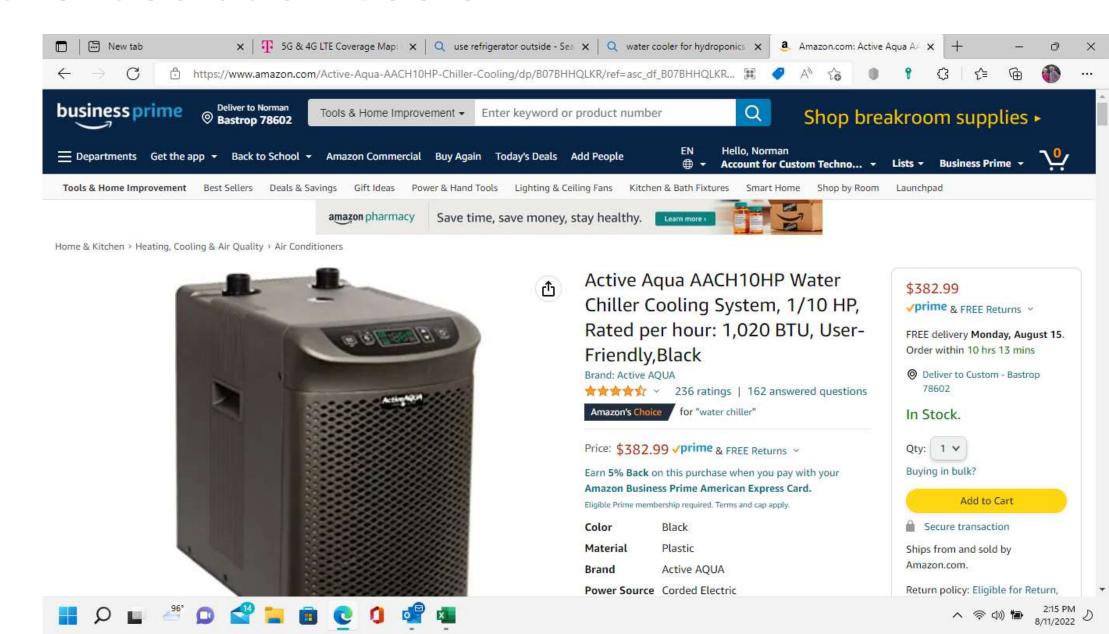


400:1 ratio with 27 gallon system translates to 1 cup of nutrient to system (16 cups in gallon)

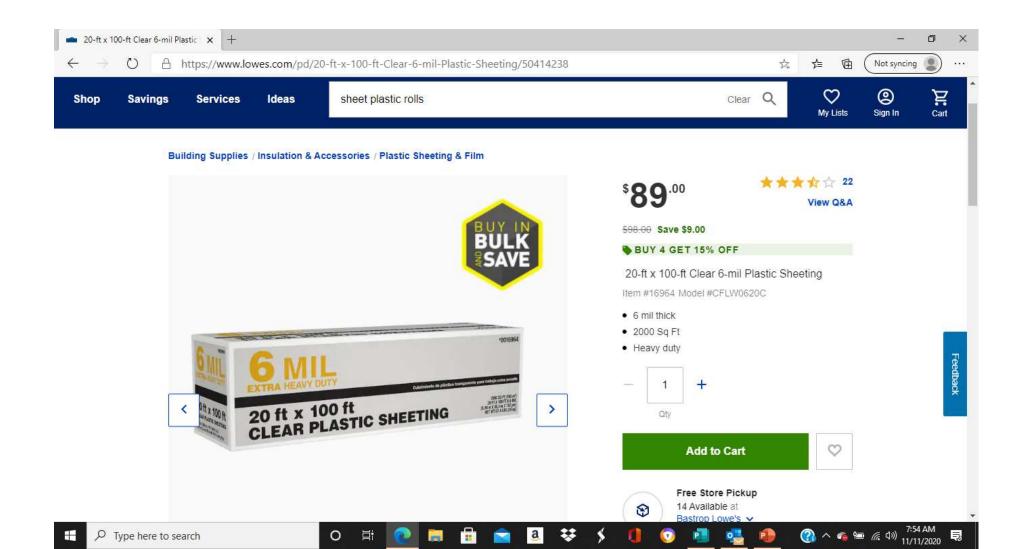
Poultry Screen: Make Enclosure to Protect Plants from Squirrels and Birds



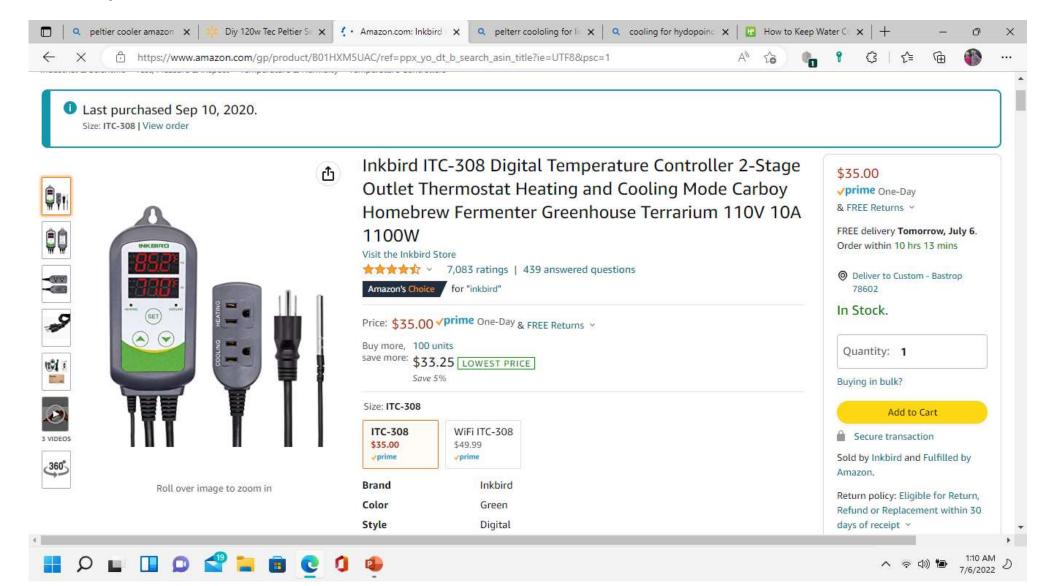
Nutrient Solution Cooler

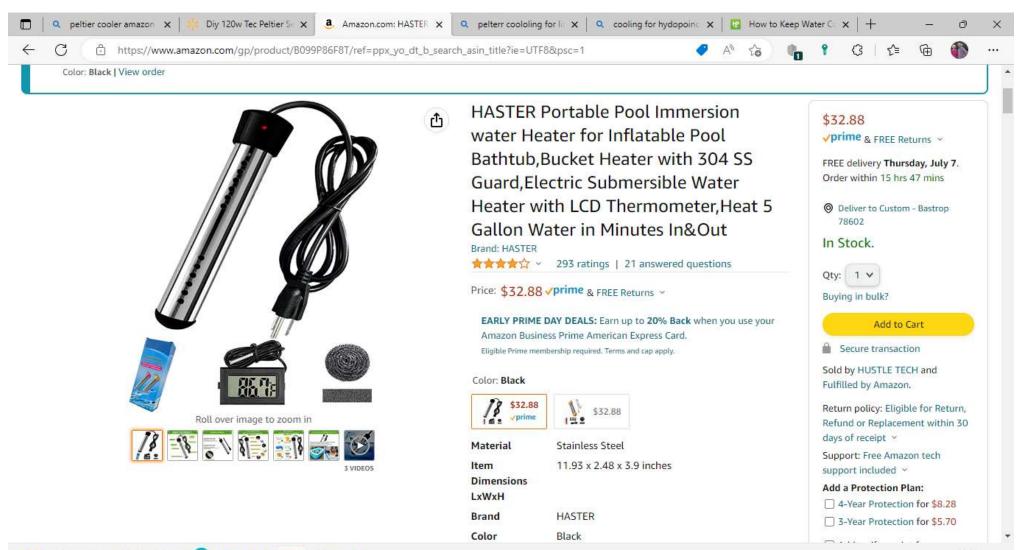


Plastic Sheeting for Cold Weather



Temperature Controller: heat or cool





























LED Grow Light for Indoor Gardening

Back to results



Grow light, full spectrum, 2.5'x2.5' 200 watts Amazon \$69.99

3ht, VIPARSPECTRA 2020 Pro 1000 LED Grow Lights, with ed SMD LEDs(Includes IR), FD Full Spectrum Dimmable ow Light for Hydroponic 'lants Veg Flower

RSPECTRA Store 230 ratings | 41 answered questions

89.99

69.99

FREE One-Day

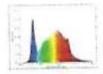
, FREE Returns

20.00 (22%)

ve more



HIGH EFFICIENT

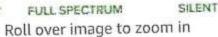


FULL SPECTRUM









DIMMABLE

\$69.65 LOWEST PRICE



















Available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially