

# MAKING A SELF WATERING POT



	<p>You'll need a polystyrene broccoli box, which you can get at your local greengrocers.</p> <p>You'll also need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine mesh (the size of the base)</li> <li>• Fine gravel or coarse sand</li> </ul>
	<p>Some old irrigation or plumbing pipe is useful for water inlet and outlets. (If you don't have either, it will work without).</p>
	<p>Cut the pipe into 2 sections. One needs to be long enough that it sits above the level of the pot for the inlet.</p> <p>The other will be used as an outlet pipe.</p>
	<p><b>RESERVOIR LAYER</b></p> <p>Place a layer of the gravel /sand in the box, aiming for a depth of about 5-10cm.</p> <p>The more depth, the greater the water holding capacity of the reservoir at the base.</p>
	<p>Place the mesh over the top of the gravel/sand layer. This stops the potting mix falling into the reservoir layer. I used some leftover flyscreen mesh but you could use shadecloth – anything that won't disintegrate easily in wet conditions.</p>
	<p><b>OUTLET</b></p> <p>Pierce a hole at one end of the box, level with the top of the gravel/sand layer. Make it large enough to fit your outlet pipe. If you don't have a pipe, you'll find excess water will just drip out straight under your pot.</p>
	<p>Push your pipe or irrigation offcut into the hole, protruding to the outside and leaving some length on the inside of the box.</p>



A view of the box with the outlet pipe from the outside.



#### INLET PIPE

Place the inlet pipe sitting directly on the gravel/sand reservoir layer.



Carefully fill your box with good potting mix, holding the inlet pipe in place so it doesn't fall over during the filling.



Give your soil a good watering until you can see water coming out of the outlet pipe. This indicates that the reservoir at the base is now full of water.

Your planter box is best used sitting above the ground as the excess water coming through the outlet can be caught in a bucket.



Your new self-watering pot is ready to use.

When first planting new seedlings, it's best to water them from above to help get their roots settled, otherwise you can add water via the inlet pipe to help protect against fungal issues that may arise when watering foliage.

Top up the water regularly, especially over summer.

