



## Project Overview

Wicking veggie gardens have gained popularity over the past few years and with good reason.

These water saving “self watering” garden beds reduce the need to manually water and creates happy, healthy veggies, as the water is absorbed through the roots so they get the maximum amount of water and nutrients.

Follow the steps below to learn how to build your own wicking veggie garden.

## Tools & Materials

1. IBC container – contact the Co-Op for availability
2. IBC base or bricks to hold IBC – contact the Co-Op for availability
3. Wicking Bed starter kit (available from the Co-Op)
  - a. Director
  - b. Elbow barbed
  - c. Elbow threaded
  - d. Ag pipe
  - e. Geotech fabric
  - f. PVC pipe
  - g. Pipe cap
4. Angle grinder
5. Jigsaw or stanley knife
6. 5 bags of organic soil – available at the Co-Op
7. 1 bag of lucerne mulch – available at the Co-Op

# Your step-by-step guide

## 1. Prepare the IBC

Remove the belly from the cage.

Cut the IBC metal cage in half with an angle grinder and cut the container belly in half with saw to create 2 x wicking beds.







## 2. Put in the Overflow Point

Drill a small hole in the lower half of the IBC and attach the irrigation fittings and silicone them in



## 3. Start Layering

1. Cover the base with a thin layer of gravel or scoria



#### 4. Add the Inlet Pipe

PVC cut to length and joined with agricultural drain which allows the water to come out evenly in the bottom of the reservoir level.



#### 5. Layer some more

Cover the ag pipe with more gravel or scoria and level it off. Make sure you leave about 30cm above the top of the gravel so the soil can wick properly.

#### 6. Cover with Geo fabric

Put down a layer of geo fabric which stops the soil going down and clogging the reservoir layer



## 7. Add the soil

Add good quality organic soil to encourage growth. Organic soils also supply a steady release of nutrients to plants, inhibit erosion, and host a robust population of beneficial microorganisms.

The wicking action will only work if there's a high volume of organic matter. Make sure the soil is loose and not too tightly compacted.



## 8. Add the top layer

Lucerne mulch works great as a top layer.



## 9. Start Planting

Time to get planting & enjoy!