

Manual

Biohacks

Road-Ready Garden

by
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GRIGGS

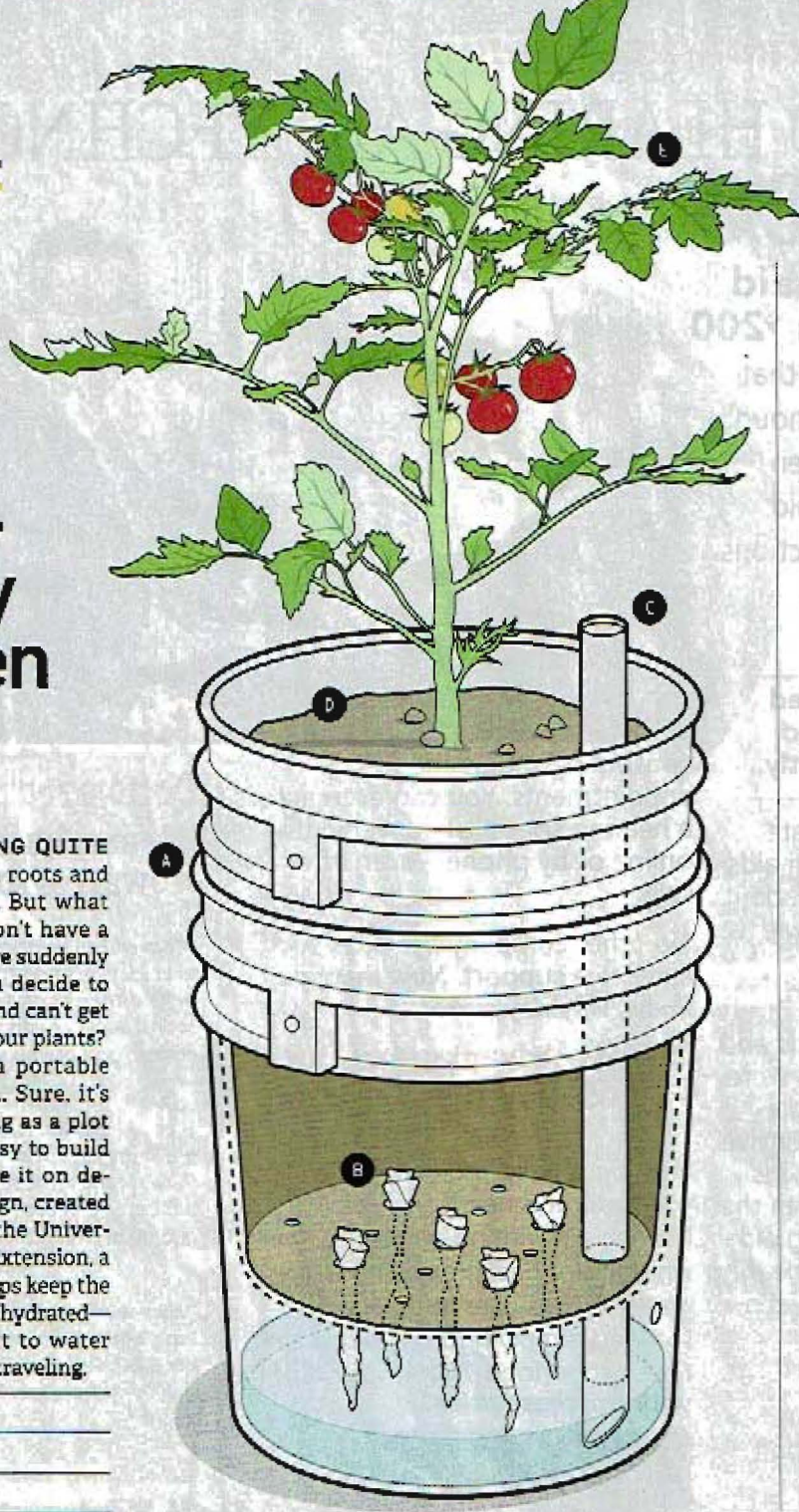
THERE'S NOTHING QUITE like putting down roots and tending a garden. But what happens if you don't have a backyard? Or you're suddenly uprooted? Or you decide to go on a road trip and can't get anyone to watch your plants?

Just whip up a portable container garden. Sure, it's not the same thing as a plot of land, but it's easy to build and you can move it on demand. In this design, created by researchers at the University of Maryland Extension, a water reservoir helps keep the plants healthy and hydrated—even if you forget to water them while you're traveling.

TIME 2 hours

COST \$\$\$

DIFFICULTY ●●●●●



+TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Two five-gallon food-grade buckets (A)
- Drill with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch hole saw and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bit
- Sandpaper
- Cloth or nylon strips (B)
- PVC pipe, $\frac{1}{2}$ -to 1-inch wide, 18 inches long (C)
- Saw
- 16 quarts of soil (D)
- Seedlings or plants (E)

+INSTRUCTIONS

- 1/ Trace the mouth of the pipe on the bottom of one bucket, less than an inch from the edge. Drill and sand out that circle.
- 2/ Drill five additional $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch holes: one in the center and four evenly spaced around the edge. For drainage, add eight smaller holes spread around the bottom.
- 3/ Tie a knot at one end of each cloth strip. Feed the strips through the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch holes so the knots sit on the inside and the cloth hangs down.
- 4/ Put the holey bucket into the second one, mark a spot on the outer bucket where the holey base hits, and separate them. Drill a small overflow hole at the mark and restack the buckets.
- 5/ Cut one end of the pipe at a 45-degree angle. Push that end through the pipe-size hole in the inner bucket.
- 6/ Fill the inner bucket with damp soil and plants, and keep them hydrated by pouring water down the pipe. Stop adding water when the overflow hole starts to leak.