

HYDROPONICS:

the new agriculture



Hydroponics, simply put, is a method of growing plants without soil.

The Need for Change

We are understanding more and more how our traditional agricultural practices are affecting both the health of our planet, and our bodies, in negative ways.

Our growing population is requiring more food, which requires us to clear more land and use more water. Figures show that between now and 2040, we will have to produce as much food as was produced to feed humans for the last 8000 years. That's quite a burden on our planet. Traditional crops are sprayed with a wide concoction of pesticides and chemicals, and are exposed to a number of biological contaminants - which we then ingest.



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Commercial Applications

Thousands of acres of greenhouses are being built world wide to sustain the world's growing food demand. Hydroponic greenhouses can produce 10 times the amount of crop per acre as a standard farm field, and they produce 12 months of the year. Statistics show that hydroponic crops use about 10% of the water that field grown crops use. Growing food hydroponically saves water and eliminates pesticide needs.

Home Hydroponics

We know that fresh food is on everyone's mind. It seems like Romaine lettuce is off the shelves every other week because of some pathogen (ecoli, for instance). You can buy bags of hydroponic grown vegetables at the grocery, or, you could grow your own! It's so easy and affordable. If you don't have a greenhouse (but we think everyone should!) you can still grow vegetables year-round in your basement.

There are many simple methods that make it easy to grow herbs and vegetables at home. A 5-gallon pail with nutrients and a 'net pot' specifically designed to sit on a 5-gallon pail is all your need to start. Plant a cherry tomato and eat fresh tomatoes that you grow all winter long!

Don't Miss Out

The greenhouse you see displayed at the Landscape Arboretum's spring show could be yours! It is discounted for this show only, and could be the chance for Conservatory Craftsmen to help you start your very own hydroponics garden!



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