

Home made Hydroponic system

You need (you probably have most of this kicking about in the shed anyway!)

1 plastic trough 50cm (cost approx £3 from garden centre)

2 plant pots (about 25cm wide rim and 20cm high) - cost £1 each from garden centre

1 5ft stick of bamboo (50p from b&q)

1 piece of capillary matting, (30cm tall by 15cm – cut into 2 triangles – about £2 from garden centre, enough for 2 pots)

water

chicken poop/soluble feed (optional)

old feed bag / piece of black plastic bin liner & 2 clothes pegs

Total cost £7.50



Take a plastic trough and drill 2 holes in each end near the top. Both holes should be in line.



Other end..



Cut cane in half and feed both bits through the holes.



Fill trough with water to a point just below holes. Level off



Add a small handful of chicken pellets to the water and stir.



You can use these or any soluble feed. We use chicken pellets as they are slow release

Cut matting in half to form 2 triangles.



Drill hole in bottom of plant pot. Take one of the triangles of matting and feed it through the pot. Pot up your chilli plant with compost. The rolled piece of matting should reach the top of the pot. The roots then suck up moisture from the water below as it is needed by the plant.



Position the pot on the trough. Make sure the wick/matting goes through the bars and into the water.



Level up the trough on the ground using some form of chock if necessary.



Non hydro equivalent plant (in the ground / same age of plant)



Row of troughs in our tunnel.

Note the size and bushyness of plants compared to those in ground.



Give everything a stir every couple of days to prevent algae buildup. Top up the water as necessary.

Stop Press....

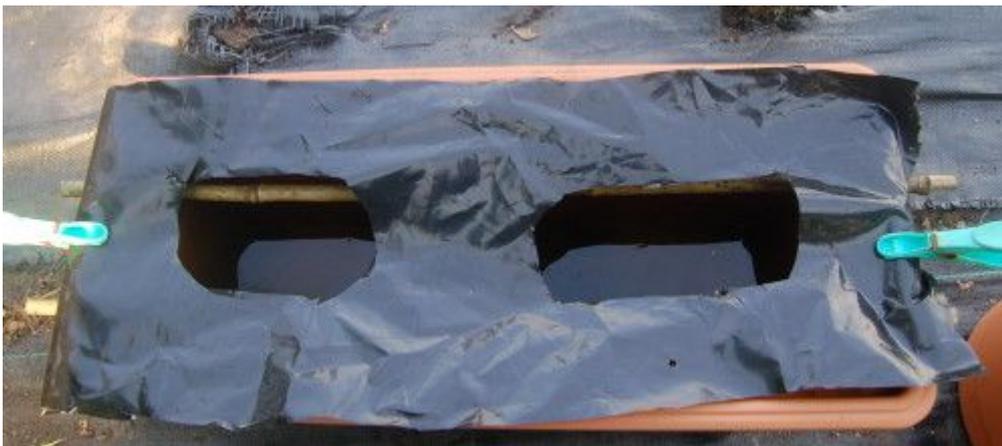
See below modification for anti algae Mark2 Bodge-it Hydro system!!

Kay has just pointed out that this could lead to stagnant water and a build up of algae in the water reservoir.. To get around this... cut a rectangle of black plastic from say an old feed bag. You could probably use a bin bag aswell or a bit of old mipex. Make it slightly longer and wider than the rim of the trough.

Cut two holes to allow the matting to go through from the plant.



Lay this on top of the bamboo canes and use a peg at each end to hold it down.



Finally add the pots. The matting goes through the plastic cutouts, between the canes and into the water.



Check the water levels every couple of days.

By adding this black layer, it will help to eliminate algae and the stagnant water problem.