

HOW TO BUILD A RAISED WICKING GARDEN BED FOR NEXT TO NOTHING!



1. Go to your local dump or salvage a fridge from the verge. Good for the environment!



2. Arrange a de-gas for your fridge. We used Environmental Recyclers NT. Greg will take away all the unwanted parts too, for just \$25. What a cheap garden bed!



3. Get the kids involved and decorate your fridge with some unwanted paint. We got ours from the tip shop for next to nothing!



4. Remove all the unwanted parts including shelving. Plug any holes in the bottom or back of the fridge to prevent water leakage, using silicon sealant.



5. Ensure water can pass through from the main reservoir to the freezer area. If not, drill a hole through low down, using a 25mL holesaw drill bit.



6. Fill the bottom third of your fridge with whatever you have handy - beer, wine or soft drink bottles or even gravel. We used a large supply of unwanted small plastic pots!



7. Drill a hole through the side of the fridge. This should be a fingerwidth above the fill. Position a piece of 25mL irrigation pipe in the hole, to act as the overflow pipe.



8. On top of the fill lay some chicken or bird wire. Tuck it down the sides of the fill.



9. On top of this, lay hessian and tuck it down the sides. This acts as a wick between the water layer and the soil.



10. Install a vertical piece of irrigation pipe on the inside of the fridge to below the level of the wire. This is used to fill the water reservoir.



11. Now for the soil. We made up a mix of one third cow manure, one third coir peat and one third mulch. Fill the fridge almost to the top.



12. Fill the water reservoir through the vertical irrigation pipe with your hose.



13. Your bed is ready for planting. Don't forget to mulch! You should only need to top up your water reservoir once a week during the Dry Season!

Happy growing.

