



Assembly of a Manual Watering Tower

Congratulations on your purchase! Each Foody tower will provide years of fresh produce and healthy eating. Setup is not difficult however we do recommend reading through all of the directions before actually beginning.

Step 1: Assemble the Growing Pods which come in 2 parts (see photo) & which snap together. Simply align the lid on the base unit and then thump it firmly down with the palm of your hand or even a rubber mallet as you work your way around the outer edge. The lid snaps down onto the base. (Note: In the future if the lid needs to be removed insert a standard screwdriver into the small rectangular slot between the lid and the base. Turn the screwdriver in the slot and the lid will pop back off.)



Step 2: Place one of the small yellow plugs (shown at right) into the center hole of each growing pod. Then lay one square piece of colored mesh over it and the slots in the bottom. These keep the soil from falling through the water drain holes. Now fill each Growing Pod with good quality potting soil up to within 4 or so inches of the top. (One large bag of potting soil will normally fill all four of the growing pods.) Hand water to settle the soil. If using small plants these may now be placed into the soil in each growing pocket. Once planted add more soil as needed. If planting seeds, fill the growing pod with soil up to just below the outside edge of each planting pocket. After planting be sure to hand water **each** growing pocket so that all plants or seeds will be watered adequately. Note: stacking of the towers occurs in Step 5 below.



Step 3: The base reservoir is meant to be used hydroponically so do not put soil in it. After you've selected a suitable location for your tower fill the Reservoir with water to within 2-3" of the top. Next add appropriate amounts of liquid nutrients and stir well. We recommend Bontanicare Pro Grow and Pro Bloom. (There are other types of liquid nutrient product options that may be used and which can be purchased from your local hydroponics store.) We advise being very conservative and adding nutrients incrementally as per directions on the container. Then recheck the salt level with a TDS meter (see next paragraph). From then on check the salt levels once per week and the water level every 3-4 days; more frequently when plants are growing rapidly.

We strongly advise purchasing a Total Dissolvable Salt meter. This instrument is needed to monitor the total level of nutrient salts in the base reservoirs water solution. (Salt meters are available on our website or at your local hydroponic store.) A normal salt range to aim for is between 750 ppm to 1000 ppm. We suggest a starting level of 800-900 ppm. (It's a good idea to measure the natural salt level of your water first.) Add liquid nutrients according to the label directions, stir, and measure again. Work your way up slowly to the desired ppm level. Remember that too high of a salt level can damage plants.



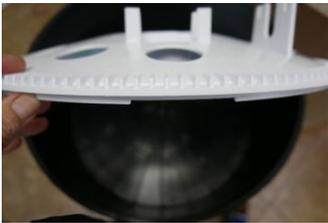
If your salt level gets too high adding more water will dilute the salts and bring the total salt level back down to more desirable levels.

Initially it is best to add liquid nutrients to the water prior to placing the lid on the Reservoir. Later, nutrients may be added through either of the two access doors in the Reservoir Lid. When testing for pH or salts it is best to use a small plastic glass or cup to remove a sample of water and take the measurements outside of the base reservoir.

Remember that the plants in the stackable Growing Pods do not get their water from the Reservoir. Therefore each Growing Pod must be hand watered individually as needed.

pH Meter: A pH meter is not mandatory but is recommended to monitor the pH of the water & nutrients in the base reservoir. For plants the best pH range is from 5.5 to 6.5. (Digital pH meters and pH Control Kits are available on our website or at your local hydroponic store.) Check pH after the liquid nutrients have been added and the total salt level is in the 750 to 1000 ppm range.

Step 4: Placing the lid onto the Base Reservoir. You'll notice two notches in the underside of the white reservoir lid (photo of notch shown on left). When placing the lid onto the reservoir align the notched areas so they will fit down over the two slightly protruding areas on the inside of the reservoir. (Photo on right shows one of those protruding areas.) Doing so will correctly position the lid and help it to fit more securely on the reservoir.



Carefully place the ball bearings (from the included small plastic dispenser bottle or plastic bag) into the groove around the edge of the center hole. The ball bearings ensure easy rotation of all of the Growing Pods. (Note: until the Rotation Trumpet is placed over the ball bearings they can escape very easily. Don't worry if one or two fall into the water.) Now, carefully slide the round Rotation Wheel (has teeth on its outside edges) down so that it rests on the ball bearings.

Step 5: Slip one of the Growing Pods down into the Rotation Wheel. Other Growing Pods may then be stacked up one on top of the other. Note: after planting, hand water each planting pocket in the growing pods as needed.

Step 6: Prior to first use the 8 small white net pots need a rope wick inserted into their base. Simply pull one end of the brown rope up and through the base of each net pot and then back down through another hole. The tails of the rope will then hang down into the water after being placed into the Reservoir.



When ready to plant, small plants may be placed into these net pots and then topped off with a growing medium such as Hydroton (Plantit). Gently wash as much soil as possible off of the plant roots before placing them into the net pots. Or, seeds may be planted into small rooting plugs (such as Rapid Rooter) and then these can be placed into the net pots. After planting, place the net pots into the holes in the Reservoir lid. The 2" net pots are *only* for use in the lid of the base reservoir. No net pots are needed in the stackable growing pod pockets.

You now have your tower assembled and ready to grow!

Foody Vertical Gardens LLC takes no responsibility for the safety or cleanliness of your food grown.

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