



# The Burkey Bucket



## A Self-Watering Container System

### Supplies:

- 5-gallon bucket with a lid
- 3 pieces of perforated black drain field pipe (each 8 rings long)
- 1 PVC pipe 24" long by 1" wide (bottom cut at 45° angle)
- 2 cable ties
- White heavy flex grip garbage bag

### Tools:

- Power drill with a 1-1/4" hole saw bit, a 4" hole saw bit, a 1/4" drill bit, and a 3/8" drill bit
- Tin snips or utility knife (to clean up edges)
- Jig saw (to cut lid and pipe)
- Safety glasses

### Soil:

- Jungle Growth or Sta-Green potting mix
- 1 cup Vigoro palm, ixora, and ornamental fertilizer 8-4-8
- 3 tbsp dolomite lime

### Assembly:

**Step 1**— Make the separation/divider between water reservoir and soil.

A. Place the lid on the bucket and leave the lid in place to make it easier to drill and cut out holes.

B. Drill hole using the 4" hole saw 1/2" away from the edge of the lid (for drain field pipe); all cuts can be trimmed with tin snips.

C. Drill hole on opposite side 1/2" away from the edge of the lid using the 1-1/4" hole saw (for PVC pipe).

D. Use 1/4" drill bit to make holes in the lid for drainage and aeration.

E. Cut out the divider from the lid. The easiest method is to make a starter hole with the 1/4" drill bit and then use the jig saw to cut a circle along the inside of the rim, leaving rim in-tact for later.



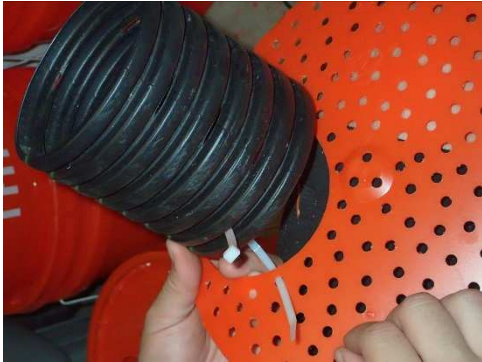
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### Assembly Continued:

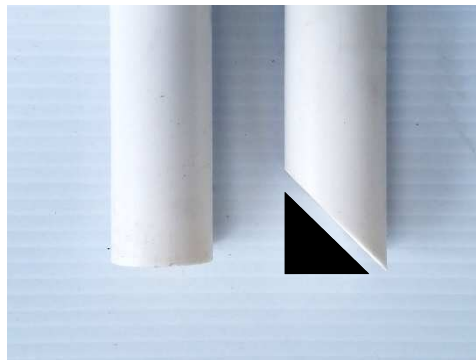
**Step 2**— Attach the piece of drainage field pipe to the bottom of the plastic separator. The drain pipe opening should line up with the 4" opening in the divider. Take a cable tie and insert it through the slits of the drain pipe and then through the hole in the divider. Repeat with the other cable tie on the opposite side of the hole. The drain pipe should now be firmly attached to the divider.



**Step 3**— Place the other 2 (8 ring long) drain pipes in the base of the bucket. Put the plastic divider with attached pipe inside the bucket so that all three pipes fit next to each other. Hold the bucket up to the light so you can locate the point on the side of the bucket that is just at or below the plastic divider. Drill a hole using the 3/8" drill bit for over-flow drainage. If you are using Home Depot buckets, you can drill right into Homer's thumb for the perfect spot.



**Step 4**— Cut the bottom of the PVC pipe to make a 45° angle using the jig saw ( a mitre saw works as well). Add the PVC pipe to the bucket through the 1-1/4" hole in the divider with the angled end down.



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### Assembly Continued:

**Step 5**— Fill center of drainage field pipe with soil through the hole in the plastic divider and pack it down level to the bottom of the divider. Add soil to the bucket until it's about half-full. Put in 3 tbsp of dolomite into the soil and mix thoroughly. Add more soil to the bucket until it mounds a little over the top.



**Step 6**— Make a 1" wide trench around the rim at the sides of the bucket and fill the trench with 1 cup of the Vigoro fertilizer. Replace soil over the trench until the fertilizer is covered up.

**Step 7**— Place garbage bag over the top of the bucket in two layers. Now replace the rim on the bucket so that the plastic stays in place when the wind blows. Cut an X in the middle of the garbage bag for the plant to go through. Gently dig a hole under the X and place in the desired plant then re-cover the area with soil around plant.



**Step 8**— Place bucket in the final area you want it to be. Fill the water reservoir from the top of the PVC pipe until there is runoff through the drainage hole. Refill periodically to keep the plant supplied with water.

For questions, contact:

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