



Thanks for your purchase of one of our wicking beds. We hope you have years of productive vegie gardening ahead of you. If you have any questions regarding what to grow, when to plant and how, feel free to contact us via the details below.

Timber garden beds, like timber outdoor furniture or decking, requires maintenance to keep it looking good and to extend the usable life. We recommend applying linseed oil to all of our timber beds every 12 months. Alternatively, you can use a timber decking oil and/or stain.

To prevent premature rotting of the timber, we recommend installing them on pavers or gravel to stop the timber from sitting in water or wet soil.

Our website contains monthly planting guides - <https://ahvg.com.au/guides/>

If you are into Facebook or Instagram, we are very active on these and use our pages to showcase what and how we are growing including our failures.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AdelaideHillsVegieGardens>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/adelaidehillsvegiegardens/>

To fill the water reservoir in your wicking bed, take the lid off the pipe that is poking out of the soil (either black or white), stick a hose in and turn on. When the reservoir is full, the black overflow pipe that is sticking out of the side of your bed will have water coming out of it.

The first few weeks of your new seedling's life are critical. The wicking bed takes time to begin the wicking process, 1-2 weeks on average, although rainfall will accelerate this. During this time your seedlings will need to be watered regularly to allow them to grow roots down into the wicking zone which is ~5cm below the soil surface. In the warmer months that needs to be done every 1-2 days, preferably in the cool of the early morning or late evening. In the cooler months this should be done every 2 days assuming it doesn't rain. If you have seeds planted in addition to seedlings, these will need to be watered for an extra 1-2 weeks more than the seedlings to reach the size in which they become independent.

Mulch! Please add mulch to your beds to help cool the top layer of soil down in summer which reduces stress on your plants. Our favourite mulch is Who Flung Dung from Neutrog. Note that mulch should never touch your plants as it can cause them to rot. Pea straw, hay or sugar cane are also great to use as mulch.

Once the seedlings are established you only need to keep an eye on the water level in the reservoir by using a dipstick, a rake handle is an easy way of doing this. Simply stick it down the inlet pipe immediately after filling it to get the full height and mark this on the handle. As long as you can see water, the beds will be wicking. To reassure yourself it is still wicking you can check by sticking your finger into the soil to a depth of at least 5cm. It should be moist, not wet, and cool.

If you have used our recommended soil, BioGro Premium Wicking Mix, then you have 3-4 months' worth of fertiliser. That said, we would recommend using Neutrog GoGo juice or Popul8 every 2-4 weeks, applied to the soil, not added to the water reservoir. The only thing



that should ever be added to the water reservoir is water. GoGo juice and Popul8 are not a fertiliser, they are a “probiotic concentrate for soil and plants, combining the power of billions of beneficial microbes with seaweed, fish and humic acid to improve soil and plant health.”

During the growing season, the addition of extra fertiliser will be needed. In the wetter months you can simply scatter more Jeffries Culchar over the soil and the rain will wash it into the soil. In the dry months you can do the same but will need to regularly water from the top to wash the fertiliser in to the soil. Another alternative is a liquid fertiliser. Examples include Charlie Carp and Powerfeed, both organic based. We recommend following the package directions remember than more is not better. In fact, less is more.

Each 6 months, when changing crops (ie. Spring and Autumn), dig in 30L of compost per m². Add the recommended amounts of Jeffries Culchar and Neutrog Seamungus. Blood and bone is good, fish based fertilisers, seaweed based soil tonics are also good. If you want to use non-organic fertilisers then please note they are all salts and can build up in your water reservoir. We advise using them sporadically and only at half the recommended rate.

Go forth and grow!