

# CHICKERING GROWS

## THIS WEEK IN THE GARDEN

October 19, 2020

### WHAT'S GROWING

We are excited to GROW with you!

### TIP OF THE WEEK

Let's learn something NEW!

### WORD OF THE WEEK

Horticulture has its own lingo!

### DIY PROJECT

Want to make a fun garden craft?

*What do you get  
when you drop a  
pumpkin?*

**SQUASH**

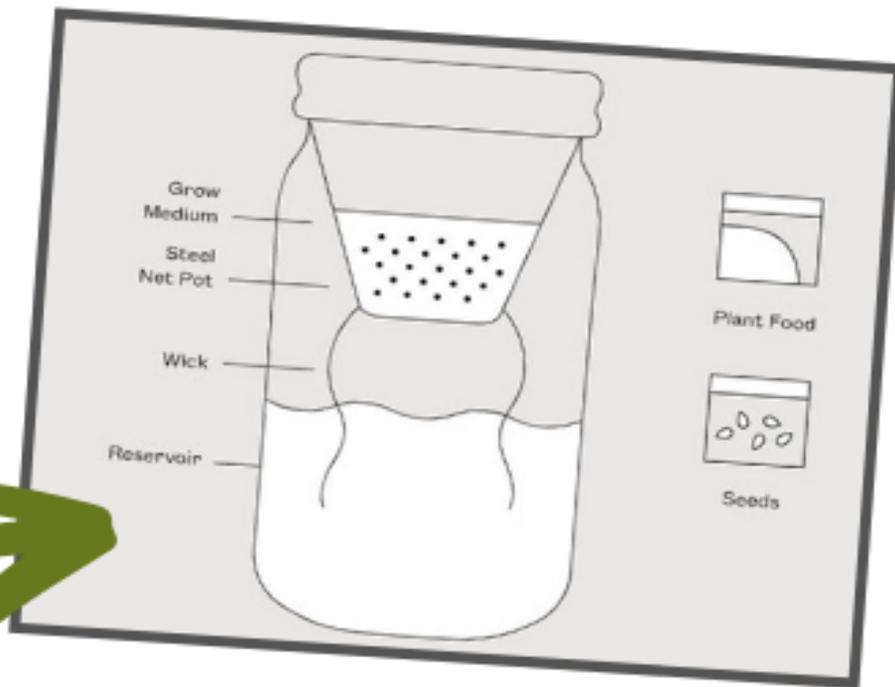


### WHAT'S GROWING: SEEDLINGS

Zinnia seedlings are getting taller! The first leaves on your plant are called **cotyledons**. These leaves are part of the embryo within the seed of the plant. The “true leaves” of the zinnia form later and look very different than the cotyledons! Substantial light and proper temperatures are crucial for fast growth and healthy plants. As we approach colder temps, be sure to keep your garden jar in a sunny spot (above 55F) to prevent cold damage. Or consider a fluorescent **grow light** to supply an ideal balance of light and warmth for your plant this winter.

HAPPY GROWING!

How it works?



## TIP OF THE WEEK: HOW IT WORKS

Let's get a better understanding of the **passive** hydroponic system we are using called **the Wick System**, which brings the water and nutrients up the plant's roots. The entire concept of a wick system is based on **capillary action**; a process in which liquids travel against gravity through a wick. There are no moving parts, like pumps or electricity. The wick is the simplest of all hydroponic systems, thus the best for beginner hydroponic growers!

**Grow Medium:** Coco coir does a great job absorbing and retaining moisture. So, your plant only ever draws the liquid and nutrients it needs!

**Activated Carbon:** Activated carbon rids the soil of impurities, repels insects, and prevents mold and odors. It's also extremely porous, meaning that it absorbs excess moisture, preventing root rot.

**Steel Net Pot:** The net pot is designed with holes in the bottom to allow the nutrient solution to enter the plant root zone and drain effectively. Net pots are also important for the aeration they provide. Air pruning takes place which encourages a stronger root system. Since the roots can grow out of the net pot, they receive all the oxygen they need to grow big and strong.

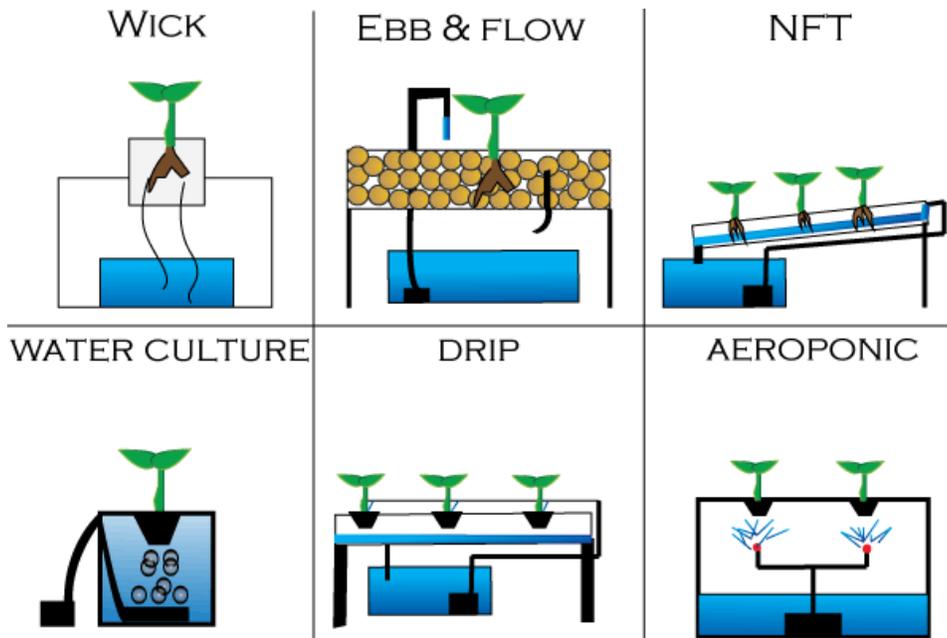
**Wick:** The built-in wick is long enough to be submerged in the nutrient solution, but also so the other end of the wick makes contact with the plant root system.

**Reservoir:** The water and nutrients need to be changed every 2-3 weeks to keep plants happy and healthy! Remember the self-watering bell jar garden is reusable for future garden projects!



## WORD OF THE WEEK: HYDROPONIC SYSTEMS

In addition to the **Wick System**, there are five other hydroponic systems. What are they called and what do they do? Let's learn some new hydroponic terms!



**EBB & FLOW** is a simple and reliable hydroponic system that uses timed irrigation to provide nutrients to the plant root system. A growth tray over a nutrient container and a pump is used to flood the tray with nutrient solution. The nutrients that are not absorbed by the roots are drained back into the reservoir and recycled.

**NUTRIENT FILM TECHNIQUE (NFT)** This method uses sloping trays or tubes and a recirculating pump to deliver a continuous stream of nutrients to the plant's roots. Good air flow is built into the system.

**DEEP WATER CULTURE (DWC)** is a hydroponic system in which a platform of planters simply floats on the reservoir while the roots of the plant are submerged in a nutrient mixture. An air pump is introduced into the system to oxygenate the nutrient solution.

**DRIP RECOVERY SYSTEM** Sometimes referred to as a gravity-fed system, the drip system sort of works the way watering works in a soil-based garden. A timer controls when the water and nutrient solution is delivered to the plants through a series of distribution and feeder tubes. The excess drains into the reservoir and is recycled using a water pump.

**AEROPONICS** is a growing technique in which plants are maintained without the aid of a growing medium. The plant's roots are continuously sprayed on a regular schedule with a vapor mist solution, exposing them to air all of the time. Aeroponic plants are typically suspended on a platform and supported by a clone collar, which is a small disc made from a sponge-like material. This makes it look like they're growing on air.



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## DIY: PINECONE ZINNIAS

This is such a fun and easy craft!

You will need:

- Pinecones
- Acrylic Paint (White, Yellow & Colors)
- Paint Brush (2" or smaller)
- Cardboard tubes (like toilet paper tubes)
- Drop Cloth

Any type of pinecone will work, as long as they have the floral shape on the bottom. It is best to use cones in multiple sizes. Just be sure they are dry!

Use a drop cloth to keep your space clean and your dry paint brush to remove any dirt and debris on the pinecone before getting started.

Place your pinecone face down in a cardboard tube. Paint or spray white paint on the base of the pinecones so some of the natural brown is still visible at the end. Let the first coat of paint dry completely.

Next, apply color! To give your pinecone flower an authentic zinnia look, paint a yellow dot in the middle. Let your flowers dry completely overnight.

Now you are ready to display your beautiful pinecone zinnias!



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## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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## ANY QUESTIONS? ASK US

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