

Growing all year can be fun, profitable and healthy. Few people, especially children, understand the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables. Few people, and again, especially children, understand how plants are grown or where they come from. They don't understand quality as much as taste and appearance.

Many people want to garden or grow plants, but don't believe they can. Children may associate gardening with “old folks”. With the decline of the small farm children and many adults do not understand or know the joy of gardening. A garden can be indoors in an area with ample light, outdoors, or in a greenhouse or shade house. Gardening can be done in soil or in a “soilless” growing media. Growing without soil is more exact, more scientific, more controllable and more fun. “Soilless growing” has become easier to do than growing in the soil. Soilless growing is a large worldwide business for fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers. NASA at Cape Kennedy is using “soilless growing” to develop ways to produce fresh food in space.

Vertical gardening is a method of growing plants and vegetables that decreases the space needed and also decreases the amounts of fertilizer, water and pesticides used. Vertical growing requires less energy because it utilizes space more efficiently. Vertical gardening is not expensive and can be done virtually anywhere that there is sun and water. A simple vertical garden has been developed by **Verti-Gro** for the family. It can grow 120 plants in a space that is 4' x 15', an area less than 50 square feet. This is 8-10 times less space than the normal outdoor garden. It can be completely automated to water and feed on a daily basis and for up to a week without any attention if necessary. There are no weeds because a weed barrier is included with the “**Outdoor Vertical Garden**”. The VGK30 120 plant garden, costs less than \$170.00.

No special preparations are required. Simply drive a 3/4" piece of conduit into the ground anywhere in a sunny area, fill the pots with the growing media supplied, stack the pots over the pipe and plant. Set the timer for 2-3 minutes for 2-3 times per day. Mix the nutrients as directed in one gallon jugs then dilute 1:128 or 1 oz per gallon. For example in a 25 gallon tank add 25 ounces, or about 3 cups, concentrate liquid fertilizer. A larger tank may be desired for VGK-30 unit.

Smaller sizes are also available as complete automatic indoor re-circulating units, outdoor re-circulating units, outdoor drip irrigation units and portable herb garden units. Fertilizer is available in 5 pound bags for the larger vertical gardens.

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