

DIY Vertical Herb Garden with a Shoe Organizer



cool DIY vertical garden solution: In case you don't recognize it, the basis is an old closet shoe organizer. Meant to keep your shoes off the floor and save you some space, this new use saves some space by getting your veggies or herbs off the ground.



While this would go great on the side of a shed, I think this solution is perfect for people that have no yard at all. Apartment dwellers could hang this on a balcony or in a patio, or even out the window! You probably won't be growing corn and squash in these repurposed planters, but from the looks of it, you should be able to get a pretty impressive herb garden growing. This also is a good solution for problems such as cats who like to dig and toilet in gardens – they probably won't be able to figure this one out!



step 1 Materials needed

Hanging pocket shoe organizer; Pole and attachments (curtain pole or pipe fittings, screws). - Strong metal saucepan or utensil hanging hooks - Compost of a good quality moisture holding type. - Selection of plants or seeds... e.g. mixed leaf salad, herbs, sorrel, peas, mini tomatoes. - Piece of wood 2"x2" as long as the width of the pocket



step 2 Attach pole to shed or wall I attached a strong chrome pole with metal fittings to the shed. You could use a curtain pole. Make sure it is at the correct height especially if you want to grow plants in a trough below (see step 7). This uses the surplus water from the pockets above.



step 3 Attach hanging shoe store Use strong hooks or wire to attach the shoe store. They must be strong enough to support the weight of the compost, plants and water.



step 4 Test drainage Pour water into the pockets to check the drainage, if they don't drain then make a few small holes in each of the pockets.



step 5 Fill each pocket with compost Add a good moisture retaining compost, fill to 1" below the rim so that water does not pour out over the rim.



step 6 Add plants or seeds Sow seeds or add seedlings. I suggest.... herbs: thyme, sorrel, chives, dill; salad mixed leaf: mustard, spinach, various types of lettuce; mini-tomatoes; petite pois peas



step 7 "Drip Aid" Use a piece of wood to make sure the excess water drips into the trough below.



step 8 Maintaining a healthy hanging veg plot - Water slowly with a gentle flow, or you may wash soil and plants out of the pocket and it will dirty the crop below. - Add water retaining crystals to the compost. HINT... add water to some crystals in a container and allow them to swell then add that to the compost and fill your containers, otherwise when the crystals swell they can grow so much that they pus...



step 9 Develop the idea - NEXT I would like ... -to hang up more shoe stores and pocket organizers, to increase the harvest. Could it become addictive??? will I end up covering every available wall? - try out different vegetables and herbs - add an automatic drip watering system