

Watering Mat

This watering mat is top-quality matting with a matching sheet of polyethylene underlay. It is a simple way to keep a mass of plants correctly watered with the minimum of labor.

How to Use

1. Lay out the polyethylene underlay sheet onto a greenhouse bench or conservatory table.
2. Place the watering mat on top, making sure that there are no lumps or bumps. Cut the mat to fit the bench or table. There must be **no** excess mat hanging over the edges.
3. Thoroughly soak the mat and rub over the whole surface with the flat of your hand. Soak again.
4. Place your plant pots (without the saucers) on the mat.
5. Water all your plants from the top to start the capillary action. When using clay pots, or pots with extremely concave bases, it may be necessary to insert a small piece of matting into the hole at the base of the pot as a wick to assist the capillary action.

*Note: If you have small seedlings or plants that should not be watered from the top, stand them in water **before** you place them on the matting.*

6. Keep the matting wet by watering as required.

How to Create a Simple Self-Watering System

To create a simple and effective self-watering system, you need a container of water whose rim is at the same level as the watering mat (**Figure 1**). You can do this by mounting a shelf to the bench legs (as shown in **Figure 1**), or by standing the container on a stool or box so that it is at the correct height. No matter what set-up you choose, **the rim of your container must be level with the mat.**

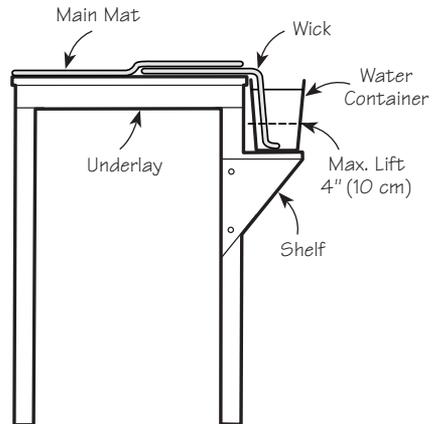


Figure 1

Cut a 6" (15 cm) strip of matting off the end of the watering mat to make a wick (**Figure 2**). Lay the wick under the mat, but on top of the underlay. (See **Figures 1** and **3**.) Let one end of the wick hang well down into the water container, where it will take up water and transfer it to the main mat. Periodically top up your container with water.

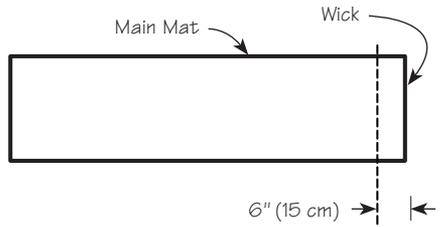


Figure 2

Do not allow the level of the water in the container to get too low. Because the wick will only lift water a maximum of 4" (10 cm) from the rim, there is no point in using an excessively deep container.

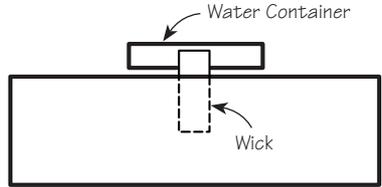


Figure 3