

Tower Garden Setup and Maintenance

Unplug the pump before allowing students to do the maintenance

Initial Tower Garden Setup

Fill the Tower Garden tank with unsoftened water to about 3” from the top. (About 20 gallons) When you first fill the Tower Garden tank, pour 200ml of Mineral Blend A and 200ml of Mineral Blend B in the tank. Turn on the pump to mix the water.

Use the pH test kit to test the pH of the water in the tub. Put 5 ml of water from the Tower Garden into the vial. Drip 5 drops of the solution into the vial and compare the color with the test strip. The pH should be within 5.5 and 7. Use about 10 ml of the pH Up or pH Down as needed to bring the pH to the correct number. (Further Instructions come with the test kit.) If the pH isn’t correct after a few tries, continue to run the Tower Garden and re-check in a few days. If the pH still isn’t correct, monitor the plants. If they’re growing fine, then you don’t need to keep adjusting the pH.

Weekly

- Fill green tub to about 3 inches from the top.
- Pour in 50 ml of Mineral Blend “A” and 50 ml of Mineral Blend “B” for every 1.5 to 2 gallons of water you add.
- Test and balance the pH. pH should be between 5.5 and 7. Only use about 10 ml of pH up or down at a time to adjust. Stir water between tests. If after 2 tries the pH isn't correct, wait a day to allow the water to settle, then try again. (Don't stress if the pH isn't exact. If the plants are growing well, then you're good.)
- Pull roots hanging into the water in the green tub.

Whenever you harvest

- Wash off netpots and growing clips.
- Clean the outside of the Tower Garden and the inside of the ports with a wet rag.

Every 6 months

- Pull pump and clean.
- Wipe down Tower Garden.
- Remove the light kit and check that holes at the top of the Tower Garden aren't clogged.

Once a year

- Take Tower Garden apart and clean with citric acid. Empty tub and re-fill with clean water. Mix in 1 cup citric acid. Place Tower Garden parts in tub including netpots and growing clips. Let soak for 2-3 hours. Rinse off parts.