



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

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## *Hydroponics Made Easy*

**Isaac Coronado**, Johnson's East Nursery Manager and  
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Hydroponic systems are slowly making their way into the homes of gardeners everywhere. Hydro-systems offer a compact space to start seedlings, grow indoor gardens, or grow and maintain tropical plants. These systems provide a better method of supplying water and nutrients to plant roots. They also contain no soil, eliminating the need for weeding and cultivating. Instead of soil, these systems use a non-absorbing aggregate that anchors plant roots.

Here at Johnson's, we now carry two Hydrofarm Hydro Systems. Emily's Garden contains six planters with a 2-gal. reservoir and pump. The Mega-Garden consists of 15 planters on a 7.5-gal. reservoir with a pump and timer. It also works by means of an Ebb and Flow watering method. Both systems are complete with aggregate, seed starting cubes, a pH test kit and water indicator.

In my experience with hydroponic systems, they tend to work better with supplemental lighting added. Natural room lighting, even close by a window, is rarely a good enough. If you're starting seeds, the Hydrofarm Jump Start Light System would work best. It contains a fluorescent fixture on a mounting system that you can raise and lower as your plants grow. However, for more established plants, a Hydrofarm High Intensity Grow Light provides an optimum light source.

Hydro-systems have been thought of as difficult and hard to maintain. In recent years, gardeners who have turned to hydroponics have learned that hydro-systems are one of the easiest forms of gardening. With either of these two systems I'm sure you'll enjoy your indoor garden for years to come. ■