SELF WATERING CONTAINER – make your own SUPPLIES

1 5 gallon bucket with a lid 3 separate pieces of black drain field pipe, the one with the small slits in them (each one 8 rings long); 1 piece of PVC pipe 18” long and 1-1/4” wide (cut bottom end on a 45° slant); 4 plastic ties; 1 stretchy garbage bag. **TOOLS**: drill & hole saw to cut out top of lid (leaving ring in tack. **SOIL** – light potting mix without fertilizer included (Jungle Growth or Lamberts is good). **FERTILIZER** Granulated (about one cup -). **PLUS** Dolomite Lime (1/2 C per bucket)

**ASSEMBLY**

**STEP 1** DRILLING THE BUCKET LID TO MAKE THE SEPARATION/DIVIDE BETWEEN WATER RESERVOIR AND SOIL

- **A)** Leave the lid in place on the bucket to make it easier to drill and cut out holes.
- **B)** On one side cut a hole just smaller than the drain field pipe (so the pipe butts against the bottom of the separation (plastic from bucket lid) (note: plastic ties)
- **C)** Drill a hole on the other side big enough for the PVC fill pipe to go through.
- **D)** Now use the drill to make holes for a sieve effect.
- **E)** **Cut out top at the rim**, leaving rim in-tact for later use.

**STEP 2** Attach the piece of drainage field pipe to the bottom of the plastic separator, using plastic ties to secure it in 4 places.

**STEP 3** Place the 2 other (8 ring long) cut drainage field pipes in the base of the bucket

Place the plastic separator inside the bucket and by holding the bucket up to the light or by measuring; locate the point on the side of the bucket that is just at or below the separator plastic. Now drill a hole for Over-Flow drainage.

**STEP 4** You have the ‘perforated plastic separator’ in the bucket, add the PVC fill pipe.

**STEP 5** Mix up your potting mix by adding **1/2 Cup of Dolomite Lime** to soil and mix in (needed for self watering containers). Dampen the soil a bit with water before filling your bucket.

**FIRST**: Fill the center of the drainage field pipe with soil so that it will ‘wick water from the reservoir to the soil above’. Fill the bucket to 1-1/2” from the top, dome the soil for the plant and put in your plant.

**STEP 6** Make a 1” wide trench around the rim at the sides of the bucket and fill the trench with…

**1 Cup granulated fertilizer** then feather soil on top of the fertilizer.

**STEP 7** Place the two layers of stretchy garbage bag over the top of the bucket, cutting an X for the plant to go through. Now REPLACE the rim on the bucket so that the plastic will stay in place when the wind blows.

**STEP 8** Fill the water reservoir with water until the point of runoff through the drainage hole. Place in the proper light for your plant and watch it grow.