

# REPURPOSING RECYCLABLES FOR GROWING VEGETABLES

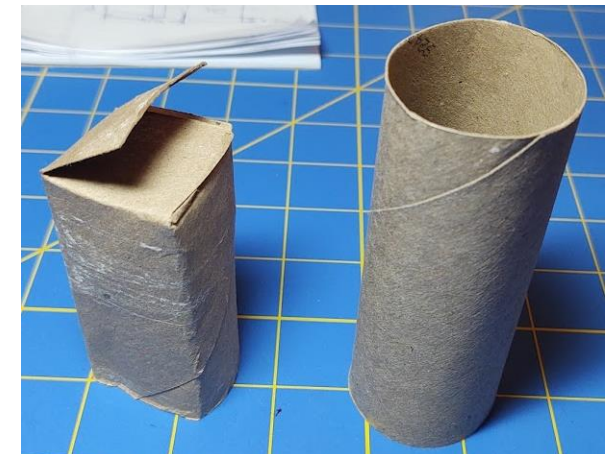
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March-April, 2020

During Social Distancing for COVID-19 Pandemic



# TOILET PAPER CORE TO SEEDLING TUBES







1. It's easier to handle if you crease the tube in half. Cut each side about 1".



2. Make a second cut in the middle, the same 1" so that you have a total of 4 cuts.



3. Now, you should have four-corner cut square cylinder, ready to be folded as in next step.



4-5. You can fold them in whichever order you'd like. No need to tape anywhere. The weight of soil keeps it folded



6. Fill the tube with potting or seed-starter soil, ready for seeds. You can place several tubes in a container – recyclable preferably..



# SALAD CONTAINER TO A PLANTER



1. You need two plastic salad containers: one for inside (with holes for water drainage); and the other for outside



2. Puncture 6-8 holes (1/4" diameter) in the inside container.



3. The outside one without the holes serves as a tray to hold any overflowing water. Make sure there is a gap between two containers for air flow.



4. Fill the combined containers with potting soil, plant seeds and water. Follow the instructions in the seed packet.





# FRUIT CRATE TO A PLANTER



This wooden crate was used for clementine. These holes came with it, so all you need to do is add potting soil. It's best put it on a tray of some sort for overflowing water as shown in the photos in the left.



(In the left photo, from left to right) spinach, lettuce and mesclun  
(In the photo below) a week later under Gro-light....

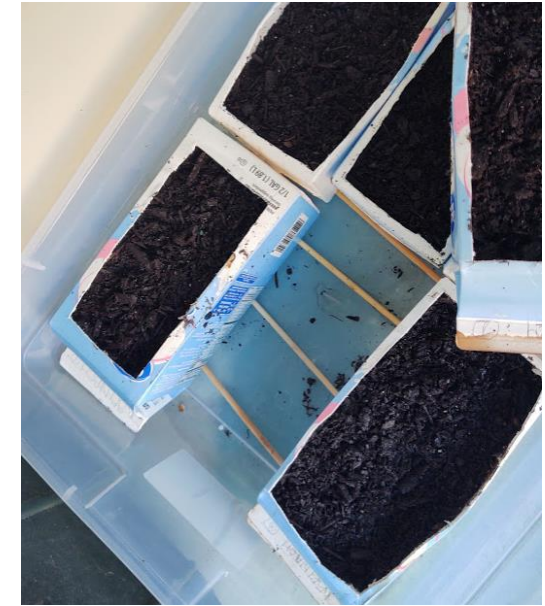


# MILK CARTON TO A PLANTER



Keep the cap. When you cut out one side entirely, keep the edges so that the final product retains the shape.

Puncture 6-8 holes in each carton for water drainage.



Fill potting soil in each carton before place it in a tray to capture water overflow. For air flow, you can place either disposable chopsticks or Styrofoam strips underneath cartons.



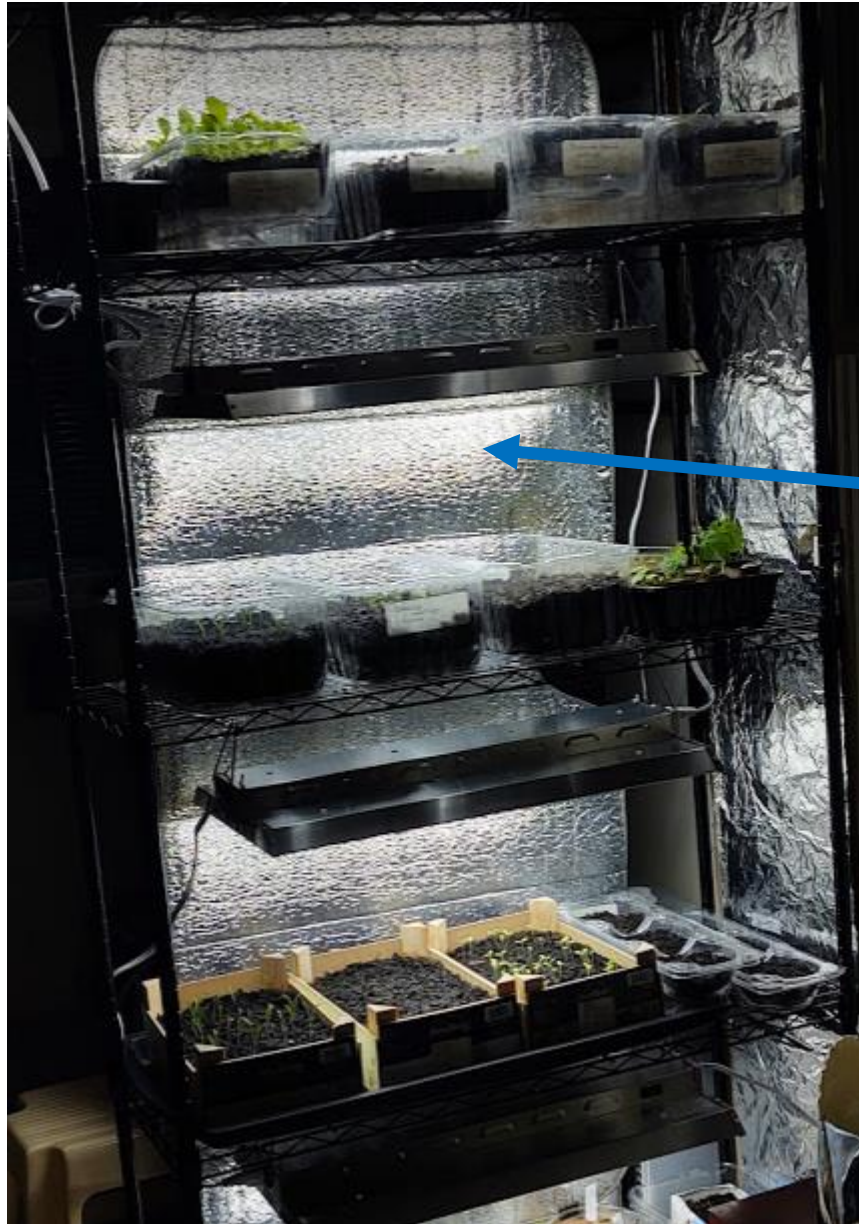


# WHAT'S NEXT WITH PLANTERS?

- These planters can be used for harvesting directly periodically, or growing seedlings to be transferred.
- I am using them for growing salad vegetables (mainly lettuce, mesclun and arugula) indoor under Grolights as shown in next slides. Of course seedlings in toilet paper core tube can be directly planted either indoor or outdoor gardens.
- I am sure there are many other creative ways to repurpose various recyclables.
- I've been sharing the progress of these vegetable with my college students in online classes. Something to distract them from stress amidst of COVID-19 pandemic. As the saying goes, a garden is hope we can see. Hope you enjoy it and get to create your own ways of repurposing and gardening.



# GRO-LIGHTS & 4-TIER SHELF-UNIT



Natural  
light  
from  
west

LED Gro-lights

Old car windshield sunlight reflector,  
vertically opened and hanged with  
clips on the top shelf-unit

Aluminum panel to reflect light





# WHAT'S GROWING



Lettuce and microgreens



Carrots, and  
tomato  
seedlings





# GUESS WHAT THEY ARE!



Don't lose hope. COVID-19 shall pass. Let us make the best of what we have. Let us be patient with ourselves. Perhaps **start a garden to stay hopeful and healthy.** Take care and stay well.





# STILL GROWING... GROW HOPE!

Cucumbers



Green Beans

Spinach Hybrid Salad



Arugula

