

# How to: Kratky Hydroponic System



## Description:

Keep the local harvest going strong by growing leafy greens and herbs at home! Assemble your own simple "Kratky" hydroponic system with these easy steps.

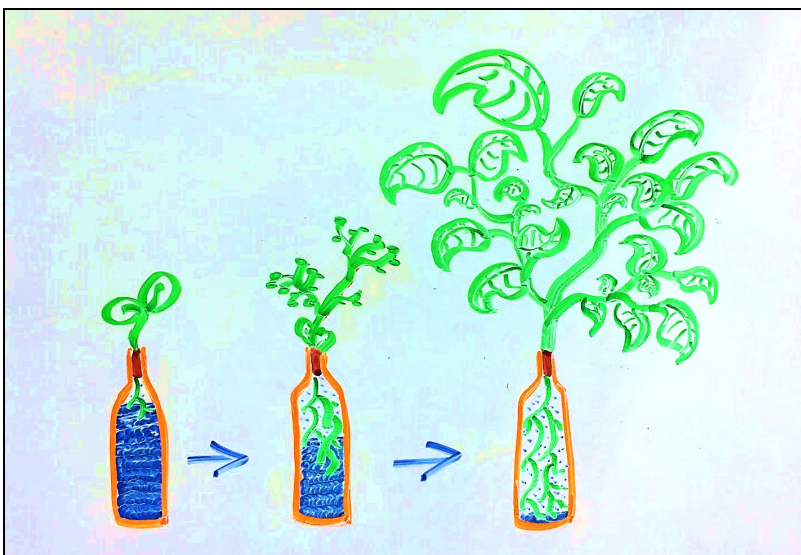
**Your Kit Includes:** a reusable bottle, a pair of gloves, a mask, a small cup containing pre-measured dry nutrients, and a jar containing a pair of living sprouts (keep warm!)

## Preparation:

- 1) Put seed(s) into a plug, soak in a small container until the seed germinates (~5 days).
- 2) Rinse a used plastic/glass container (12oz+) with a bottle-neck (thumb-width).
- 3) Wash the bottle with soap, rinse until bubbles are gone, then sanitize with vinegar.
- 4) Fill the bottle with nutrient water (local garden supplier), then gently push your sprout plug  $\frac{1}{2}$  way into the bottleneck so that half of the plug sticks out of the top of the bottle.
- 5) Set your Kratky bottle in a warm, sunny/well-lit place where it can grow in peace!

## Caring for Kratky:

- 1) The first week is really important for keeping your sprout alive because the water level often drops faster than the sprout's roots can grow down. Top-off every 1-2 days.
- 2) To top-off your Kratky bottle, gently lift your sprout out of the bottle and top-off the bottle with tap water over the sink. Then gently place the sprout back into the bottle, and do not push it more than half-way in. Repeat if the water level is below the roots.
- 3) Once your sprout has established roots into the water line, you do not need to refill the bottle until it is nearly empty, or you can simply harvest your plant and enjoy!
- 4) If you choose to let your plant continue growing beyond the initial nutrient water load, gently lift the plug an inch or two out the bottle neck - do not pull roots out of the bottle!
- 5) Now add tap water (or pre-mixed nutrient water) to fill half or less of the bottle - keep a moist air zone between the water level and base of the plug or the roots will drown!



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The banner features four icons at the top: a hand holding a plant, a birthday cake with candles, a seedling in a pot, and a smartphone. The text is in a green, sans-serif font.