



# Do's & Don'ts - A Guide To Successful AutoPot Growing

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE KEEP THIS GUIDE SAFE IN CASE YOU NEED TO REFER TO IT DURING THE GROWING SEASON**

## Tray2Grow Is Suitable For

- All plant varieties - edible or ornamental\*
- Seeds, seedlings, cuttings, and micro herbs (properly contained)
- Plants at all stages of growth
- Watering and feeding plants unattended for long periods of time

*\* If growing Carnivorous plants use rain water in your reservoir instead of tap water. If growing Bonsai plants push a small wick into the hole in the underside of the Bonsai pot. The wick will then pull moisture from the Tray2Grow capillary mat into the Bonsai soil.*

## Tray2Grow Can Be Used With The Following Containers

- Plastic, ceramic, or terracotta pots of all sizes - either with a hole in the base to allow for upward absorption of water or of bio-material.
- Growbags - ideally fluff up and perforate the underside and before use.
- 1x Tray2Grow Fabric Planter (available separately)
- Up to 4x Seed trays (4x incl. as standard - lids available separately)
- Up to 2x AutoPot Tray2Grow Microherb trays (available separately)

## Positioning Your Tray2Grow

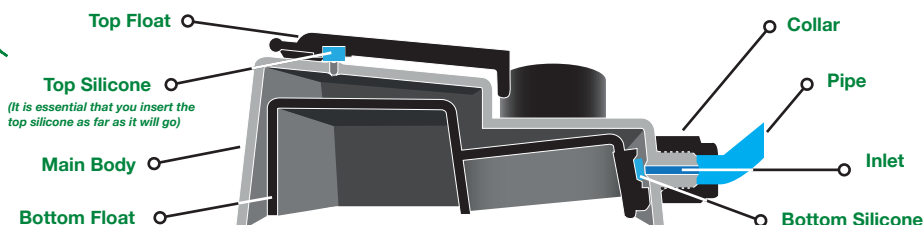
- Place Tray2Grow up on a firm surface - ALWAYS ENSURE IT'S LEVEL
- The Tray2Grow relies on a firm, level surface to provide accurate watering - don't place your tray on gravel etc in case it sinks/sags.
- Check your Tray2Grow is level during set up using a long spirit level
- The circular spirit levels on your Tray2Grow will help you establish whether the tray remains level

## Tray2Grow And The AQUAvalve

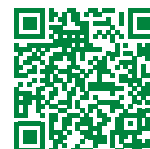
The AQUAvalve is the patented water control device at the heart of your Tray2Grow. Once connected to your reservoir the AQUAvalve regulates the flow of water to your plants in the tray. The AQUAvalve is not a ballcock and will NOT continually maintain a level of water in your tray. The AQUAvalve floods the tray to a preset level, closes, and only reopens when the tray is drained (within 30-60mins).

## Setting The AQUAvalve - AQUAvalve Parts

- Top Float (Black) attached to the top of the Main Body
- Main Body (Grey) which features a Nozzle and Collar
- Bottom Float (Black) attached within the Main Body
- Collar (Black) which secures the pipe in place on the Nozzle
- Silicones (Blue) one on the Top Float, one on the Bottom Float
- Note that Silicones are Float specific:
  - Small Silicone = Top Float
  - Large Silicone = Bottom Float



Scan QR below for AQUAvalve Set Up And Care Video



## Setting The AQUAvalve - AQUAvalve Checklist

- Ensure that there is a blue Silicone in the Top Float
- Ensure that there is a blue Silicone in the Bottom Float
- Push the Silicones into their holes as far as they will go
- Hold the AQUAvalve side-on at eye level
- Ensure the Silicone in the Top Float is making a parallel seal on the volcano shaped hole below it

## AQUAvalve Servicing - Follow Steps In Order:

1. Remove the Silicones (**see AQUAvalve Parts**) and store safely
2. Clean the AQUAvalve Body and Floats using a toothbrush, green fabric scourer, or sponge and warm soapy water
3. Push a pipe cleaner/wooden skewer through the AQUAvalve Nozzle
4. Remove any fertiliser build-up in the Nozzle, rinse, and allow to dry
5. Check that the holes for the Silicones are completely dry
6. Place the Silicones in their specific holes and push in firmly

## When To Switch Your Tray2Grow On

Choosing when to switch your Tray2Grow on depends on the configuration in which you are using the system

If growing with a grow bag and the capillary spikes:

- Hand water through the holes cut for plants until you see the tray fill.
- Allow the plants to establish and feed for 7 days.

- After 7 days turn reservoir on until tray fills. Then turn reservoir off.
- Allow plants to take up water / liquid feed. Continue to turn reservoir on/off for 3 weeks until plants establish. Then leave system on.

If growing in all other configurations switch on the Tray2Grow straight away once set up

## Switching The Tray2Grow On

Switching on is achieved by:

- Opening a tap on your reservoir connected to your Tray2Grow
- Or opening the 9mm inline tap
- Or simply filling your reservoir (if no tap is to be installed)



### Using fertiliser with the Tray2Grow

The Tray2Grow can both water and feed your plants. Feeding can be achieved by adding a liquid or soluble fertiliser to the reservoir. Water and fertiliser simply run to the pots in your tray via the pipework and the AQUAvalve. AutoPot Liquid Plant Fertiliser is an excellent choice, it remains stable in suspension and flows cleanly.

If your growing media includes fertiliser, supply plain water only for the first few weeks then add your fertiliser to the reservoir in accordance with manufacturers directions. If unsure of how long the feed in your growing media lasts add 5ml / litre to the volume of water in the reservoir.

Other liquid fertilisers can be used with the Tray2Grow but may result in you having to clean the reservoir more often depending on their consistency and stability. If using powdered fertilisers dissolve in hot water first and then add to the reservoir.

### Keeping Your Fertiliser Flowing Cleanly

When refilling your reservoir and adding AutoPot Liquid Plant Fertiliser:

ALWAYS turn your reservoir tap off first. Then add your water and liquid fertiliser. Wait for 30 - 60 minutes. Turn your reservoir tap back on. Doing so prevents any agitated particles in the reservoir from being pulled through the pipework.

### Reservoir Choice

You can use any sturdy water-holding container as a reservoir for your Tray2Grow. Suitable types of container range from tapped water butts to simple plastic tanks adapted for the job - see instructions for details. All the fittings required for connection are included in the Tray2Grow. The AutoPot 47L reservoir is an ideal choice for water storage as it comes ready-drilled for AutoPot fittings, is grommeted, and includes a lid.

### Reservoir Capacity

A 47L reservoir has the capacity to supply one Tray2Grow for 14-28 days depending on the size of the plants and the weather conditions.

### Essential Maintenance - Reservoir

If you are using your Tray2Grow continually throughout the growing season clean your reservoir and filter using the directions below before every third fill. If you are only using your Tray2Grow while away on holiday, clean your reservoir and filter once finished.

#### To Clean:

- Let your reservoir run low - ideally to just above the tap/filter point
- Turn off the reservoir tap, disconnect and empty the reservoir
- Clean out the reservoir with plain water and a cloth, then rinse
- Disconnect the filter, open the filter case, remove the filter sponge
- Clean the filter using warm soapy water - rinse with plain water.
- Reassemble the filter, reattach to pipework, reconnect system

### Water Temperature

Ideally you should aim for a reservoir water temperature of 18-21°C.

During the summer or hot spells there are a few tricks you can use to help keep your temperature within this range.

- Place your reservoir in a shaded area
- Place a white cover over your reservoir
- Place a sealed 1-2L bottle of frozen water in the reservoir
- Use an AutoPot 'Reservoir Heat Shield' - this reflective jacket is specially designed for the 47L reservoir, it will help reflect heat away, keeping water temperature stable

### Extending your Tray2Grow

It's simple to extend the Tray2Grow using the fittings included - see Tray2Grow instructions for details. An AutoPot 47L reservoir can supply up to three connected Tray2Grows. Beyond three kits increase reservoir capacity according to the size of your layout. AutoPot offer a full range of larger reservoirs, larger gauge pipework, and the right fittings to allow you to create layouts of virtually any size.



Scan QR to view Tray2Grow accessories at the AutoPot Garden Site

### End Of Season

**ALWAYS** clean your complete system at the end of the growing season **NEVER** leave until the following season.

Any sediment left in the pipework will dry over time and turn into sludge the following season when the system is set up and turned back on.

Pipework should be flushed or can be soaked in warm water and vinegar overnight and then flushed with plain water.

Pour hot water across your pipe and fittings to ease separation.

### General Tips & Further Information

If growing outdoors remove the 6mm / 1/4" Overflow Plug from the front of the Tray2Grow. If growing indoors keep this plug in place.

If it rains persistently and your Tray2Grow is located outside simply turn off the reservoir until the rain stops, turn back on when the tray is empty.

Tray2Grow is supplied with a slug-repellent copper tape. During set up the tape should be applied all around the edge of the tray to deter slugs from damaging your plants or interfering with the AQUAvalve.

Check the Tray2Grow AQUAvalve compartment and the channels in the tray fortnightly for plant roots. Remove if present. This won't damage your plant.

For details of the AutoPot range scan the QR (right) and visit the AutoPot Garden website



To view video guides for AutoPot Watering Systems scan the QR (right)



To view or download this guide and others from the AutoPot website scan the QR code (right)

