

### Gallons of Water Used to Grow One Pound of Vegetables

Lettuce	23 gal
Tomatoes	30 gal
Carrots	33 gal
Apples	49 gal
Potatoes	60 gal
Broccoli	65 gal
Cantaloupe	80 gal
Corn	168 gal

dump (they were free then!) and made a large greenhouse. You can also use them to make cold frames. A cold frame is a (usually) four-sided frame of boards with a removable glass or plastic top. The frame is placed on the ground and is used to house, protect, and harden off seedlings and small plants, without artificial heat.

23. Use an old leaky wheelbarrow to grow small veggies. Move it around to follow the sun.

24. And use some old boots and shoes as pots for hanging plants, like peas, or even tomatoes.

25. I need plenty of B&W newspaper every year, since I use it each spring to cover the weeds that sprouted over the winter (Zone 9a). I spread it fairly thickly, with overlapping edges and put an attractive mulch on top. The B&W papers nowadays use soy ink for the black—no heavy metals like when I first did it in 1973.

26. For keeping seedlings moist, I use a “water rose” or showerhead sprinkling can (made by Bosmere Haws). They cost a lot, around

\$45, but are the best way to gently water new seedlings. The tiny holes face up and the water cascades up and then falls like a very gentle rain. Figure 10.

27. If (like me) you’re stuck with gophers or other burrowing/gnawing/destructive critters, use wire baskets under the ground to contain vulnerable plants like squashes. Get the largest one you can, because virtually all the roots that try to grow beyond the wire are eaten. When I make my own baskets, I use four-foot wide rolls of half-inch hardware cloth—it has the best galvanized coating.

28. Dry your herbs in the car. Place them on a towel and put in the trunk, out of direct light.

29. Use a wooden hoe handle as a measuring stick. Just mark every foot with a stroke of a file, and do it every inch for the first foot.

30. To make a hose guide to protect plants in garden beds, stab a two-foot length of steel reinforcing bar one foot into the ground at the corner of a bed and slip two clay pots over it—one facing down, the other facing up.

31. Find smooth fist-sized stones and use a Sharpie™ pen to write on them; they make great unobtrusive plant markers.

32. Do you ever use up all the toilet paper? I bet you do. Use toilet paper rolls as seedling pots by bending in the end of the tube.

33. Vertical gardens are popular but can be expensive. Use a cloth shoe rack to grow plants such as perennial herbs.

34. Buy some new disposable diapers—not used ones! Take them apart and line the bottom of a (fiber) hanging planter. Use the bottom layer with the absorbent padding facing up. Voilà! Nothing