

# THREE EASY WAYS TO KEEP POTS WATERED

## PROJECT ONE *Terracotta planter*

Mark Rayner shows three simple DIY projects to keep your potted treasures watered – a great idea if you want to cut down on watering time or you're planning a weekend away.

### You will need:

- Large terracotta pot
- Small terracotta pot
- Exterior construction glue
- Terracotta sealer
- Paintbrush

### HOW DOES IT WORK

By raising the drainage hole of the main pot with the smaller upturned terracotta in the base means the bottom of the pot always retains a layer of water and so capillary action of the potting mix will bring this moisture to plant roots.



### STEP 1

Apply a generous amount of construction glue around the rim of the small terracotta pot, as shown.



### STEP 2

Place the small terracotta pot upside down in the base of the larger terracotta pot, as shown, and allow glue to dry.



### STEP 3

Seal the larger pot, inside and out with terracotta sealer (we used Resene Terracotta Sealer) and allow to dry.

## PROJECT TWO

### *Plastic bottle irrigator*

#### **You will need:**

- Large plastic drink bottle
- Drill with 10mm drill bit
- Large plastic plant pot 'saucer'
- Hanging basket line
- Scissors

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Place unsealed terracotta pots on the wet hanging basket liner and capillary action will ensure the base of the pots remain moist, drawing water up to plant roots.

#### **Here's another idea:**

If you're planning a short holiday, partly bury unsealed terracotta pots directly in the ground to help prevent potting mix from drying out – choose a sheltered spot out of sun and wind. Water the pots and surrounding ground well and this should keep plants happy while you're away.



### STEP 1

Carefully drill a 10mm hole in the base of the water bottle.



### STEP 2

Cut the hanging basket liner to fit in the base of the plant 'saucer', as shown. Fill the bottle with clean water (putting your finger over the hole in the base) and stand on the hanging basket liner.



## HOW DOES IT WORK

The water slowly dribbles through the potting mix in the container and pools in the pot 'saucer' beneath ensuring that the base of the pot is kept moist.

## PROJECT THREE

### *Drip feeder*

#### **You will need:**

- Plastic water carrier with tap (ours came from Mitre 10 Mega)
- Plastic tubing to fit tap
- Scissors
- Plastic plant pot with plant pot 'saucer'



### STEP 1

Unscrew the cap of the plastic water carrier and fit the piece of plastic tubing over the tap, as shown.



### STEP 2

Fill the water carrier with clean water and replace the cap, as shown.



### STEP 3

Raise the water carrier up above the level of the pot you want watered – we placed it on the edge of a raised bed.



### STEP 4

Place the pot in position (on the plant pot 'saucer'), and cut the plastic tubing to the approximate level of the potting mix, as shown.



### STEP 5

Carefully turn the plastic tap on until a small amount of water dribbles through onto the potting mix.