

## HYDROPONICS WORTH TRYING!

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Hydroponics, an alternative method of gardening, is gaining in popularity for its efficiency and versatility. Unlike traditional soil-based gardening, hydroponics involves growing plants without soil, utilizing water or other non-soil materials like gravel or sand. Hydroponics, an alternative method of gardening, is gaining in popularity for its efficiency and versatility. **Dr. Joe Masabni photo**



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This method is known for its ability to:

- produce higher yields in a shorter time frame.
- control the growing environment.
- optimize nutrient levels, pH, and lighting, resulting in faster and healthier plant growth.
- conserve water, making it an environmentally-friendly choice.

For urban dwellers or those with limited outdoor space, hydroponics allows gardening on balconies, rooftops, or even indoors, breaking the constraints of traditional soil gardening.



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Starting small then gradually expanding may be preferred for beginners. A simple setup can be a small hydroponic kit or a DIY system using readily available materials. It can be scaled up, adding more plants, and experimenting with different techniques. This scalability of hydroponics makes it accessible to hobbyists and commercial growers.

While initial costs of setting up a hydroponic system can be higher than traditional gardening, long-term benefits often outweigh the investment.