Essential First Shopping List

If you're just getting started and taking a look around a grow store for the first time the range of equipment, plant products and growing methods can be bewildering – in fact, it's almost as diverse as the variety of plants you can grow!

So check out this list of essential hardware you'll need to get up and running. No self-respecting indoor gardener can do without this stuff. Your indoor garden will be taking shape in no time!

# Grow Light

Grow lamps provide light for your indoor plants to grow and flourish. There are different types of lamps with different color spectrums and powers. It's important to choose the right light for your application, e.g. whether the plants are growing in flowering or vegetative stages.

# Inductors & Lamp Values

Inductors are used to stabilize the efficiency of your grow lamp by ensuring that the power is distributed evenly. Inductors also help to regulate the current to the lamp and prevent heat build-up. A well-designed inductor is as important as the lamp itself and makes environment-controlled spaces possible.

# Wiring & Components

Wiring that allows you to control a “self-curing” grow light directly from your electricity to a house. The type of grow light you have will determine which components you need. Some common components are: a Ballast, Propagator, Grow Lamps, System Control, and Grow Tent.

# Propagator

A propagator is a transparent plastic box, like a mini-greenhouse, with a heating element and humidity control. It's used to grow small plants, such as seedlings, from seed.

# Oscillating Fan

An oscillating fan helps to circulate air and maintain a consistent temperature and humidity in your indoor garden. It's an essential piece of equipment for ensuring that all parts of your plants receive the same amount of air.

# Extraction Fan

An extraction fan is used to remove hot air and humidity from your indoor garden. It's important to have enough ventilation to prevent the buildup of heat and humidity, which can harm your plants.

# Light Proofing and Reflective Materials

Light proofing is the process of minimizing light leaks around your indoor garden, which can reduce the effectiveness of your grow lamps. Reflective materials, such as Mylar, help to bounce light back onto your plants, maximizing their exposure to light.

# Ducting and Accessories

Ducting is used to direct air in and out of your grow space. It's important to choose the right size and type of ducting for your grow space to ensure optimal air flow. Quick-release clamps are helpful for connecting ducting to your extraction fan.

# Chemicals & Nutrients

Nutrients are essential for plant growth. They provide the necessary macronutrients and micronutrients that plants need to thrive. Nutrients are available in both liquid and dry forms, and it's important to use the right balance for your specific grow method.

# pH Testing Meter

A pH testing meter is used to measure the pH level of your nutrient solution. This is important because the pH level affects the availability of nutrients to your plants.

# Conductivity Meter

A conductivity meter is used to measure the salinity of your nutrient solution. This is important because high salinity can harm your plants.

# Fan Speed Controller

A fan speed controller is used to regulate the airflow in your indoor garden. This is important because proper airflow helps to prevent heat and humidity buildup, which can harm your plants.

# Temperature/Humidity Monitor

A temperature/humidity monitor is used to measure the temperature and humidity in your indoor garden. This is important because maintaining the right temperature and humidity levels is essential for plant growth.

# Light-proofing and reflective materials

Light-proofing is important to minimize light leaks that can reduce the effectiveness of your grow lamps. Reflective materials help to bounce light back onto your plants, maximizing their exposure to light.

# Pro Tools

For more advanced indoor gardening, you may want to consider using more specialized equipment, such as a CO2 monitor and a CO2 tank. These tools can help to maintain the ideal environment for your plants.

# Other Items to Consider

Choosing the right equipment and supplies for your indoor garden is important. It's essential to choose equipment that is well-made and reliable to ensure the success of your indoor garden.