

WATER SEEPS SLOWLY INTO THE GROUND FROM TUBE FOR 7 TO 10 DAYS

Self-Watering "Weep Tube" For Trees, Shrubs

A new plastic watering tube, designed with tiny weep holes, allows water to seep slowly into the ground, with little evaporation, around your favorite tree, shrub or house plant, says Caleb Industries, Sikeston, Mo.

You wrap the empty "Growth Ring", with the filler cap up, around the base of the tree, making sure the earth is slightly tapered downward to the trunk. Then fill the green tube with water from a garden hose. To keep ground moist around a small tree, an approximate guide might be 2 to 4 gal. per week, counting rainfall, with more in sandy soil.

"Other drip irrigation systems must be fed by a continuous supply of water," says distributor John Vombar, Stutz-Davis Co., Los Angeles, Calif. "With the Growth Ring, you don't have to constantly drag out the garden hose to water your plants. You can fill the Growth Ring once and the watering lasts for 7 to 10 days. There's no over or underwatering. It also acts as an effective weed barrier. You can even fill it with water-soluble fertilizer to fertigate your plants."

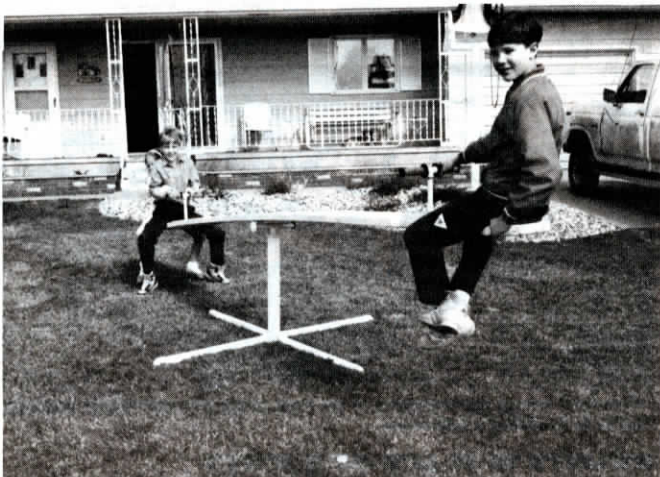
The "Growth Ring" is available in two sizes. The 6 1/2-gal. model, useful for trees and shrubs, is 2 ft. in outside dia., 6 to 8 in. high, and has a 6-in. dia. center hole. The



The Growth Ring holds 6 1/2 gal. of water which slowly seeps out to the tree. The ring also acts as a weed barrier.

smaller house plant model is 6 in. in outside dia., 2 in. high, and has a 1-in. dia. or larger hole.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Caleb Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 1498, Sikeston, Mo. 63801 (ph 314 472-0471).



"It's more fun for kids than a conventional teeter totter that only goes straight up and down," says William Bunde, Lyons, S. Dak.

PIVOTS 360° AS IT ROCKS UP AND DOWN

"Merry-Go-Round" Farm Teeter Totter

William Bunde, Lyons, S. Dak., built a portable "merry-go-round" teeter totter that pivots 360° inside a 3-ft. high base as it rocks up and down.

"It's more fun for kids than a conventional teeter totter that only goes straight up and down, and two people can easily lift it out of the base and move it whenever we want to mow," says Bunde.

Bunde welded four 2-ft. long pipes to the bottom of a vertical 3 1/2-in. dia. pipe to form a four-legged "crisscross" base. A 2 1/2-

in. dia. pipe rotates freely inside the top of this pipe and is welded to a 1-ft. long horizontal pipe which supports a 14-ft. long, 2 by 12 plank. Bunde rounded the plank's corners and made a pair of "seat" indentations near the ends of the plank. Just ahead of the seats, he made handle bars using 1-in. dia. pipe fitted with bicycle handlebar grips.

Contact: Farm Show Followup, William Bunde, Box 27, Lyons, S. Dak. 57041 (ph 605 543-5522).

FARM SHOW

New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home.

CATALOG FEATURES EVERYTHING FROM YARD-LONG BEANS TO ROUND CARROTS

"Believe It Or Not" Garden Vegetables

Imagine beans and cucumbers a yard long, foot-long peppers, square tomatoes, round carrots, soccer-ball sized onions, and pumpkins so big a young child can stand inside them.

These are some of the rare and strange vegetables offered by Ripley's Believe It Or Not Seeds, Westport, Conn. The company says its catalog contains the world's biggest assortment of unusual seeds. Here's a few of the "Believe It Or Not" varieties:

Tomatoes - Gigantic Delicious Tomatoes weigh up to 7 lbs. 12 oz. Another variety, called the "Juice Tomato", is specially bred to produce more soluble pulp and is said to be ideal for making fresh homemade tomato juice. One of the most unusual varieties is the "Square Tomato" that was created to minimize harvest damage and to make packaging easier.

Pumpkins - "Big Max" pumpkins weigh 100 lbs. or more. Tiny "Little Max" pumpkins are deep orange in color and grow to only about 2 by 3 in. in dia.

Squash - "Spaghetti Squash" looks and tastes remarkably like spaghetti, says the company. "Hungarian Mammoth" squash, said to be the world's largest, grows up to 100 lbs.

Peppers - The "Big Jim" variety produces the world's longest chile pepper. It's medium hot with thick, fleshy pods 8 to 12 in. long with 25 to 40 pods per plant.

Cucumbers - The "Kyoto" cucumber grows up to 36 in. long and is a slender 2 in. in dia.

Sunflowers - The company's "Russian Mammoth" sunflower grows more than 14 ft. tall.

Gourds - The tough, fibrous interior of Loofa "sponge" gourds works great for washing dishes, pots, and cars. Loofa sponges are used in many foreign countries. The Japanese use them to manufacture slippers, mats, baskets, toys, and even shock absorbers.

"Birdhouse Gourds grow into natural birdhouses that song and insect-eating birds love.

Corn - One packet of "Broom Corn" seed is enough to make up to 12 brooms. Plants grow 10 to 15 ft. tall with 28-in. seed heads.

Beans - Yard-Long Beans produce bright green 25 to 30-in. pods. Sometimes called the asparagus bean, it's actually a tall-growing variety of cowpea that's widely grown in Japan, China, and Africa. You pick and use them just like snap or string beans.

Carrots - "Parisian Ball" carrots are round, 1 to 1 1/2-in. dia. balls that make a great eye-catching side dish. They taste just like regular carrots.

Miniature Vegetables - Mini varieties include "Little Ball" beets (1 to 1 1/2 in. in dia.); miniature "Sugar Bon" snap peas that grow only 18 to 24 in. high and produce 3 1/2-in. long snap peas; "Sugarbaby" watermelons that grow only 8 in. across; and "Pot Luck" cucumbers whose vines grow no longer than 18 in., yet produce 6 to 7 1/2-in. long straight dark green cucumbers.

Ripley's offers a reward of \$250 for any record-breaking tomato, sunflower, squash, or watermelon variety. Their seed catalog sells for \$1.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ripley's Believe It or Not, World's Most Unusual Seed Catalog, 10 Bay Street, Westport, Conn. 06880 (ph 203 454-1919).

Stokes Seeds, Buffalo, N.Y., also sells unusual seed varieties, including:

Onions - "Kelsae Sweet Giant" Spanish onion can grow as big as a soccer ball. The world record is 7 lbs., 7 oz., and average bulb weight is 5 lbs.

Popcorn - "Cutie Pops" 4-in. long multi-colored miniature popcorn ears can be used for dried bouquets, or you can pop the seeds.

Contact: Stokes Seeds, Inc., Box 548, Buffalo, N. Y. 14240 (ph 416 688-4300; in Pa., Ohio, N.Y., and Mich. call toll-free 800 263-7233); in Canada, Stokes Seeds Ltd., Box 10, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6R6).