



Astro Garden and Space Garden™

ORBITEC's experience designing controlled environments has resulted in a set of plant growth products to support science investigations on Earth and in space. What started as a simple device to help Astronauts grow onions in space is now the Astro Garden, flying on the Space Shuttle to the ISS in August 2007. It is joined by the Space Garden, a ground-based educational plant growth chamber, helping inspire our next generation of scientists and engineers to stay active in biology and technology.



PLANTS IN SPACE

During missions, Astronauts often long for the tastes and smells of home. Experiments involving plants have provided them with that important link back to Earth, and have made plants an important tool for their psychological well-being in space.

The Astro Garden was created as a hobby garden for growing flowers, herbs and small vegetables on orbit. The kit's unique design also requires minimal resources:

- » Uses existing light sources
- » Needs no supplemental power
- » Requires minimal water and time

Astro Garden is part of NASA's Educational Payload Operations Kit C supporting the Educator Astronaut Project on the flight of STS-118 to the International Space Station. On orbit, crew members will grow basil seed and participate in video discussion with students as part of a national engineering design challenge.

PLANTS IN THE CLASSROOM

The excitement of space exploration has the ability to capture the attention of students of all ages. The Space Garden was designed as a companion to the Astro Garden, and provides one of the most realistic and educational growth systems available.

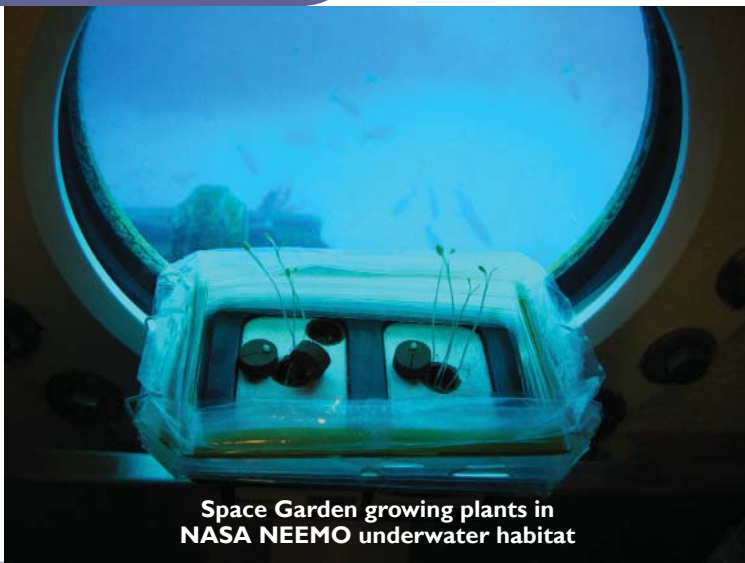
Each Space Garden comes with all the materials needed to conduct biological, agricultural and life science investigations like the Astronauts, including growth chamber, seeds, watering syringe and growth medium. An educational CD-Rom also details classroom and at-home activities on:

1. Plant growth and development
2. Food and nutrition in space
3. Gravitropism
4. Phototropism

Over one thousand Space Gardens have been distributed to schools and parents since its release. Space Garden has also been used in NASA's underwater NEEMO project for long duration spaceflight studies.



APPLICATIONS AND USES



The Space Garden (left) is designed to closely match Astro Garden (right).

A large variety of scientific plants, vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers can be grown in both Astro Garden and Space Garden.

For more information, contact:

Marty Gustafson
Commercial Applications Manager
gustafsonm@orbitec.com
telephone: (608) 827-5000
fax: (608) 827-5050

ORBITAL TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
1212 Fourier Drive
Madison WI 53717-1961
telephone: (608) 827-5000
fax: (608) 827-5050
www.orbitec.com