Bulk Sprouter
For
Humans, Livestock and Fish

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Basically, we started sprouting in 1978. We were directed to a man in Duncan, Oklahoma who was feeding wheat sprouts to disease free hogs. After viewing his stock and the almost unbelievable results he was getting from feeding only sprouts it was apparent to us that this would be the way to go raising rabbits. Sprouts give a tremendous boost to the immune system of any animal that ingests them.

Mother Earth News came out with basic instructions for a self watering cabinet sprouter. The plans may be ordered from Mother Earth News https://www.motherearthnews.com/ecom/router.aspx?PageId=ProDetail&ItemNumber=750 for $10.00. We found this copy of the original page at http://www.thefarm.org/charities/i4at/lib2/sprouter.htm. The cabinet was easy to build and worked extremely well.

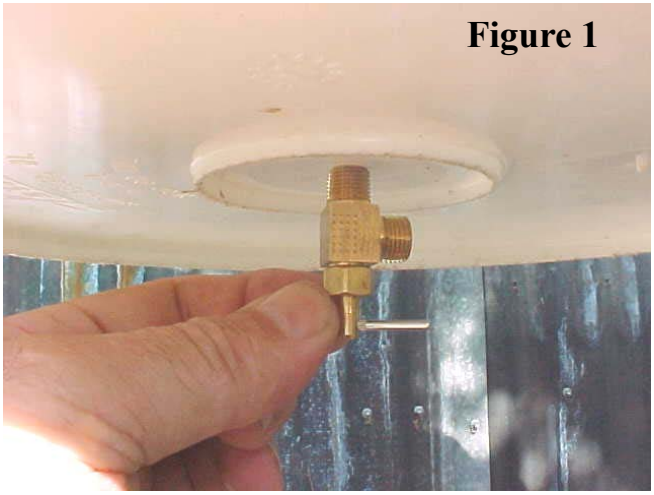
Figure 1

However, there was no way it was going to supply the sprouting needs of enough rabbits to supply our family with 3 rabbits per week. We decided to modify the basic concept so we could have enough wheat sprouts to feed about 80 rabbits.

First we needed a water supply that would last several days in case we decided to go visiting for the weekend. A five gallon bucket would last up to 3 days at a slow drip so we attached a swamp cooler valve to the bottom as in **Figure 1**. This worked well as long as a lid was kept on top to keep the bugs out. A green bucket kept the algae down to a minimum and things went well. In the next step, we attached a 1/4 inch line to the faucet **Figure 2** eliminating the bucket which was a great help since we had to lift water over 6 feet high to keep the bucket full.

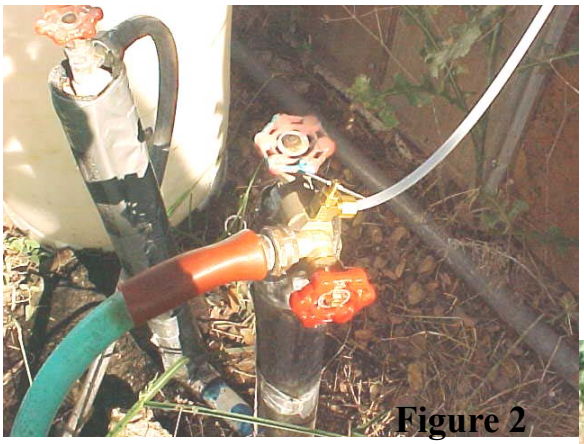
Figure 2

Next, we recreated the wire rack holding the dump mechanism as shown in **Figure 3A**. This rack works well but is somewhat difficult to bend so that all the points are making contact and the rack sits firmly on the


Figure 3A


Figure 3B

bottom of the distribution pan. The pans we were using fit with about 1/2 inch of space around the lip when put in the bottom of a plastic 5 gallon bucket as seen in **Figure 3B**. This worked well for years but there was a simpler way.

We marked a bucket at 5 inches as shown in **Figure 4A** to allow for splash back and then marked up the same bucket at 9 1/2 inches to allow for splash forward as in **Figure 4B** to accommodate the pan, counter weight and do away with the splash guard and eliminate the rack by using the cutout portion of the 5 gallon bucket to do all of these. By drilling holes in the bottom of this piece (**Figure 5A & 5B**) we also eliminated the distribution pan.


Figure 4A


Figure 4B

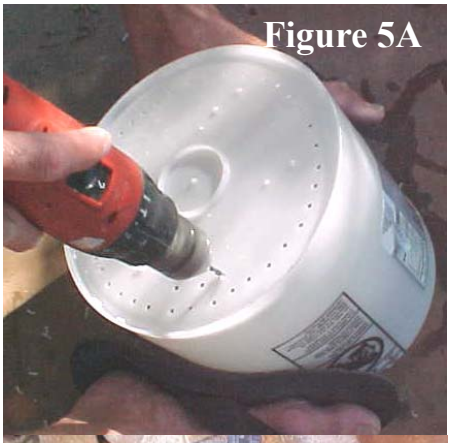
Figure 5A

Round cake pans come in various sizes and we chose one that fit inside the part we made in **Figures 4 thru 5B.** Find the center of the metal pan by using a compass. By laying a straight edge across the center line two opposite sides can be found (**Figure 6A**). Measure back 3/4 inch on both sides and drill a 1/4 inch hole (**Figure 6B**) on each side and in the back. Install the nuts, bolts and washers as shown in **Figure 7**. This completes the dump mechanism.

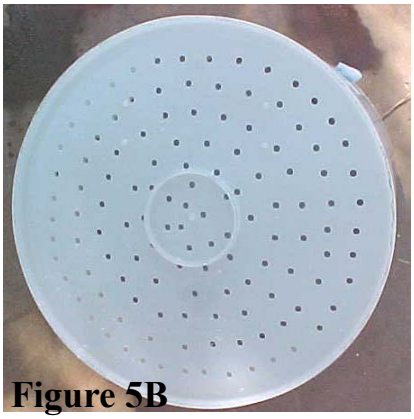
Figure 5B

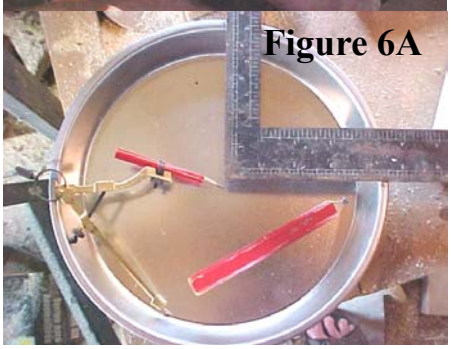
Figure 6A

Since we needed a large amount of sprouts each day, and that 5 gallon buckets were mostly free for the asking it was decided to cut 4 pie shaped pieces (**Figure 8**) from the bottom of each bucket to support a circle of 1/8 inch hardware cloth as shown in **Figure 9**. 1/8 inch hardware cloth will not allow wheat seeds


Figure 6B


Figure 7


Figure 8

that have been soaked for 24 hours to go through. In the case that you decide to use smaller seeds than wheat or Milo then still use the 1/8 inch and place window screen over it. Window screen material will not be supported properly with this configuration of cuts in the bottom of the buckets. We cut four of these buckets to allow for growth of the sprouts including the 24 hour soaking, for a 5 day period.


Figure 9

Our decision to hang the whole thing was determined by proximity of the water faucet and the tall part of the building. Start at the bottom with the green bucket for soaking the sprouts and go up with each bucket hanging on a hook or several nails as shown in **Figure 10** going up and installing the dump mechanism and hose last. Having a beautiful model in **Figure 11** to show off the completed assembly always helps.


Figure 10


Figure 11

Operation

Place 2 one pound coffee cans of wheat berries in the green bucket and cover with water. Soak for 24 hours and move up to the top bucket. Move each bucket down each day and on the fifth day it will be full of sprouts.

Adjust the drip where the dump will activate no less than every 3 hours. Some adjustment of the weights on the rear of the dump may be necessary. If you are going to be gone for several

days and cannot find anyone to care for the sprouts it is better not to have any soaking in the green bucket as they will ferment.

Great links to sprouts

http://www.living-foods.com/articles/sprouts.html
http://www.isga-sprouts.org/sprouts.htm
http://www.eap.mcgill.ca/publications/EAP35.htm