

## DIY Smart Pots

<http://www.icmag.com/ic/showpost.php?p=4155861>

Mania:



Go to Lowes and get the black felt for the pond liner 100 feet by 4 feet was like 80 bucks. Now lay the felt out and then lay the garden fence on top of it. Now fold over the felt and zip tie it to the garden fence.









You don't need a bottom I think its better that there isn't a bottom the roots grow down and out. When it's put in a swamp or bog you don't need to water it. The ones in the clear cut where watered 1 time a week. I went 2 weeks 1 time. The peat bogs is the way to go, or on the edge of a lake

The stuff is 100 feet long 4 feet wide you really can get 2 times the pots out of it because I never made them over 24 inches high. Tom Hill said 18 inches deep is the magic number.

So you are talking 12 200 gallon pots plus the wire.

12 Smart pots around \$500.00 Bucks

12 Maina pots \$150.00 Bucks

Botanical Bill: It's just the felt and the wire.

Bud Sweat: Home Depot sells them.

[http://www.homedepot.com/h\\_d1/N-5yc1...3#BVRRWidgetID](http://www.homedepot.com/h_d1/N-5yc1...3#BVRRWidgetID)

Aeroguerilla: you can find it on Google by typing pond underlayment

ianSF: Here's our summer 2010 home made "bottomless" pots. Got some 36" rolls of chicken wire cheap at a flea market and a huge roll of 48" landscape fabric.

I took a power saw and cut the fabric roll in half, making 2-24" rolls. Cut a 13.5 foot section of the chicken wire then split it the long way down the middle leaving two strips

18" 13.5'. Loop the chicken wire around and twist the ends together. You now have a chicken wire hoop 4.5'x18". Place the hoop on the ground (sharp cut side down) and cut 14' off one of the now 24" rolls of landscape fabric. For strength I have the chicken wire seam and fabric seam on opposite sides. Haven't had one split yet. Wrap the fabric around the inside of the chicken wire and make a pants cuff over the top. Cost each, about \$8. Ugly, but they work. I added all my scraps of chicken wire below the pots to keep gophers out.



Easy: We use rolls of 3', 2"x4" 14ga mesh, and cut the rolls in half with a skill saw and metal cutting blade. A 50' roll runs about \$30 and will make (10) 100 gallon pots (finish size approx. 3' dia, 16" height). We then cover with quality 3' wide, 3oz/sq yard landscape fabric that's cut to size, folded in half, and dropped over set wire hoops 'taco style' with the wire as the filling. We don't need any fabric fasteners when done this way. 3'x300' rolls of the fabric can be found for under \$40 with free shipping. That roll will cover about (30) 100gal wire hoops. It's good stuff.

Finish cost for open bottom pots made in described manner is under \$4.50 per. They are easy to break down and reuse too.

If you need to attach fabric to wire hoops then use hog ring staplers. Works well when applying your netting too. I posted a picture and some info on them in a previous posting. Should be some pictures of our pots somewhere too.

*Q: I have been looking for pictures that Easy said had been posted regarding his /her variation on this theme. Any hope that you could re-post those pictures? I am having a little trouble visualizing the "taco" aspect. And what are "hog ring staplers"?*

Easy: When the wire rolls (field fence) are cut in half you end up with a finished wire on one side, and 2" wire pieces every 2" down the length of the roll (always cut in middle of mesh). We then cut for length long enough so the wire when formed has about an 8" overlap. We then bend the cut wire pieces to secure the hoop. The formed hoop is then pushed down onto the prepared ground using the cut wire pieces on bottom of hoop for securing.

You then cut your fabric long enough so there is about a foot overlap when folded lengthwise and dropped over the set wire hoops. The fabric when set is higher than the 16" hoop height (about 2"-3"). We just leave it that way.

It's hard to explain but pretty easy to understand once you get in and start doing them.

Below is from an earlier posting:

#### *Spring Loaded Hog Ring Pliers*

Try these for your Hortonova netting, they make the job much easier since you have a free hand to hold the netting together while you staple. The hog ring stapler is spring loaded and holds a good 50 staples. \$24.95 at Cabelas.

