

# The Microgreen Farmer's Starter Kit

Everything I'd buy if I was starting over — gear, seeds, and suppliers.

Free resource from [microgreenmanager.com](http://microgreenmanager.com) · Garrett Corwin, Co-Founder of Microgreen Manager & Founder of Piedmont Microgreens

This list cuts through the noise. These are the exact tools, trays, lights, seeds, and suppliers I used to build Piedmont Microgreens from a garage to 350+ trays/week. If you're just getting started, don't overthink it — buy this stuff and start growing. Every link goes directly to the product.

## 01 — GROW STRUCTURE

### 6-Tier Wire Rack

The backbone. Adjust shelves 10" apart for 5 working levels. Top shelf for storage.

[Costco — Trinity 48x18x72" NSF Wire Rack with Wheels](#)

~\$100–  
130

## 02 — LIGHTING

### 4' LED Shop Lights — 6-Pack (22W)

Two per shelf, zip-tied underneath. All six chain together off the power strip.

[Amazon — 4ft LED Shop Light 6-Pack](#)

~\$34

### Outlet Timer

Set 16 Hrs ON / 8 Hrs OFF. The power strip plugs into this.

[Home Depot — Defiant 15-Amp 24-Hour Mechanical Timer](#)

~\$12

### Power Strip (6-Outlet, 15A)

The six lights plug into this, then the strip plugs into the outlet timer. Rated 15A so it handles the full load without issues.

[Amazon or Home Depot — 6-Outlet Surge Protector Power Strip, 15A](#)

~\$15

### UV-Rated Zip Ties (100 ct.)

For securing lights to shelf undersides. UV-rated so they don't get brittle.

[Home Depot — Commercial Electric 8" Zip Ties](#)

~\$11

## 03 — GROWING TRAYS (1020)

### Trays with Holes — Premium (Top Tray)

Thicker, more durable. Worth it if you plan to scale. Bootstrap is the standard for commercial growers.

[Bootstrap Farmer — 1020 Trays with Drain Holes](#)

~\$4–5  
ea.

### Trays without Holes — Premium (Bottom Tray)

Holds the water. Pairs with top tray for bottom-watering. Order equal quantities.

[Bootstrap Farmer — 1020 Trays No Holes](#)

~\$4–5  
ea.

### Trays with Holes — Budget (Top Tray)

Fine to start. Thinner and more prone to cracking over time, but gets the job done.

[Amazon — Plant Growing Trays with Drain Holes](#)

~\$2–3  
ea.

### Trays without Holes — Budget (Bottom Tray)

Pairs with budget top tray. Order equal quantities of each.

[Amazon — Plant Growing Trays No Holes](#)

~\$2–3  
ea.

## 04 — GROWING MEDIUM

### Promix BX Compressed Bale

My preferred substrate. Consistent, sterile, holds moisture well. One bale fills ~65 trays.

[Local Garden Store — Pro-Mix BX](#)

~\$63/Bag

### FoxFarm Happy Frog Potting Soil

Solid alternative if you can't find Promix locally. Available at most garden centers.

~\$23/Bag

[Local Garden Store — FoxFarm Happy Frog](#)

### 50-Gal Garbage Bin + Mixing Paddle + Drill

~\$90/\$50/\$18

For breaking up compressed bales. Bin on wheels so you're not bending over all day.

[Home Depot — Rubbermaid Brute 50-Gal + Ryobi Drill + OEP Mixing Paddle](#)

## 05 — GERMINATION WEIGHTS

### Concrete Pavers

~\$2-4  
ea.

8-12 lbs per stack. Most standard pavers fall in this range. Use 1 medium paver or 2 bricks per stack.

[Home Depot — Pavers & Bricks \(Landscaping Section\)](#)

## 06 — WATERING

### 3-Liter Pitcher

~\$11

For hand-watering small setups. Fill from your kitchen sink or a spigot and pour 300-500mL directly into the bottom tray.

[Amazon — 3L Measuring Pitcher](#)

### Garden Hose Nozzle with Shower Setting

~\$8

Any basic nozzle with a 'Shower' setting works. Attach to your existing garden hose or utility sink spigot.

[Amazon or Home Depot — Adjustable Garden Hose Nozzle](#)

### Retractable Hose Reel (82')

~\$250

Upgrade option for larger setups. Saves you fighting a coiled hose every day.

[Hose Link — 82ft Retractable Hose Reel](#)

## 07 — HARVESTING

### Harvest Knife

~\$18

Comfortable grip, stays sharp. Cut about 1" above the soil line.

[Amazon — Mercer Culinary Millennia Produce Knife](#)

### Digital Kitchen Scale

~\$10

Reads grams and ounces. Tare function is essential for consistent pack weights.

[Amazon — Crownful Digital Kitchen Scale](#)

## 08 — PACKAGING

### 24 oz PLA Deli Containers + Lids

~\$216/Case

My go-to for restaurants and markets. Compostable, clear, professional. Order base and lids separately.

[Good Start Packaging — 24oz PLA Rectangular Base + Lids](#)

### Hinged Deli Containers — Budget

Varies

Budget alternative for early customers and markets. Available at Webstaurant or Amazon.

[Webstaurant — Dart ClearSeal Hinged Lid Containers](#)

### Thermal Label Printer

~\$100-150

Get this once you're making sales. The Brother QL-820NWB is what I use. Cheap per label, looks professional, no ink required.

[Amazon — Brother QL-820NWB Thermal Label Printer](#)

## 09 — DELIVERY

### Insulated Delivery Bag

~\$10

Keeps product cold during transport. Essential for restaurant and market deliveries on warm days.

[Amazon — CIVJET Insulated Reusable Delivery Bag](#)

## 10 — SEEDS

### Radish — Triton or China Rose (5 lb)

~\$30-  
40

Start here. Fast, forgiving, sells well. ~40g/tray. 5 lbs = ~56 trays.

[True Leaf Market — Radish Microgreen Seeds](#)

### Pea — Field or Speckled (25 lb)

~\$81

Popular seller, great beginner crop. Heavy at ~300g/tray — buy in bulk. 25 lbs = ~37 trays.

[Johnny's Selected Seeds — Field Pea Shoots](#)

## Broccoli (5 lb)

~\$50

High-margin, nutritionally popular. ~18g/tray. 5 lbs = ~126 trays.

[True Leaf Market](#) — [Broccoli Microgreen Seeds](#)

**Seed Suppliers:** [True Leaf Market](#) · [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#) · [Mumm's Seeds](#)

## 11 — FARM MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

### Microgreen Manager

Crop planning + order management built specifically for microgreen growers. Enter your crops and orders — it tells you what to plant, when to plant, and when to harvest.

[microgreenmanager.com](#) — [Free tier + 30-day trial, no credit card required](#)

**Free  
to  
Start**

### Free Calculators — Tray, Price & Seed Density

Standalone tools, no account needed. Figure out tray counts, pricing, and seed amounts before you ever sign up.

[microgreenmanager.com/tray-calculator](#) · [/price-calculator](#) · [/seed-density-calculator](#)

**Free**

### ESTIMATED TOTAL COST

#### Starter Budget

**\$876 – \$958**

Budget trays, 30 trays, starter seeds, 1 case of packaging

#### Serious Grower Budget

**\$1,325 – \$1,407**

Premium trays, retractable hose, thermal label printer

Estimates based on prices at time of writing. Excludes software, website, and business registration costs.

Free resource from [microgreenmanager.com](#) · Prices and availability may vary. Amazon links may be affiliate links.

## Items You Likely Already Have at Home

Use what you have. Upgrade only when the volume demands it.

### Home Refrigerator

Perfect for storing harvested microgreens before delivery. Most crops stay fresh for 10+ days at 36–42°F. Don't buy a commercial fridge until you're running 100+ trays/week and your home fridge is full.

### Kitchen or Garage Table (Harvest / Planting Surface)

Any flat, cleanable surface works for seeding and harvesting. A \$12 folding table from Walmart does the job. Save the stainless steel harvest table for when you have a dedicated farm space.

### Garden Hose with Adjustable Nozzle

If you already have a hose and a nozzle with a 'Shower' setting, use it. The retractable reel on page 1 is an upgrade for when the daily untangling drives you crazy.

### Home Printer (For Invoices)

A basic inkjet for printing invoices is fine.

# What NOT to Buy (And Why)

Things beginners waste money on. Skip these — at least to start.

These are things I see beginners buy all the time that either don't help, create more work, or become a waste of money at scale. Not everything on this list is universally bad — some make sense eventually. But if you're just getting started, skip them.

## 01 — BLACKOUT DOMES

### **Blackout Domes / Humidity Domes**

Sold hard online. In reality they add cost, storage space, extra cleaning, and an unnecessary production step. Stack-germination works fine without them. I grow 350+ trays/week and never used them.

## 02 — HYDROPONIC / HEMP MAT SUBSTRATE

### **Hemp Fiber Mats / Alternative Grow Substrates**

Fine for hobbyists. At commercial scale they're not as reliable or consistent. They don't buffer moisture as well and add complexity. Start with Promix. Switch later if you have a specific reason.

## 03 — AUTOMATED SEEDING EQUIPMENT

### **Drum Seeders / Plate Seeders (Under 100 Trays/Week)**

Under 100 trays/week you'll spend more time cleaning these than you save planting. Pint containers and a kitchen scale are faster to set up, faster to clean, and costs \$10 total. Revisit at 150+ trays/week.

## 04 — EXPENSIVE GROW LIGHTS

### **Specialized Horticulture LEDs / Full-Spectrum Grow Lights**

Microgreens don't need expensive full-spectrum lights. The \$34 shop light 6-pack on page 1 is what I use at 350 trays/week. Don't overspend here until you're bigger and want to start experimenting.

## 05 — AUTOMATED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

### **Drip Systems / Ebb-&-Flow Tables (Early Stage)**

Appealing in theory, painful in practice at small scale. They require calibration, cleaning, and constant adjustment as your crop mix changes. Hand-watering 50 trays takes 15 minutes. Automate after production is locked in.

## 06 — PH / EC / TDS METERS

### **pH Meters, EC Meters, TDS Meters**

Useful in hydroponic systems. In a soil-based microgreen operation at beginner scale, they're a distraction. Use tap water. If you have consistent problems, then investigate. Don't buy solutions to problems you haven't had yet.

## 07 — MINIATURE GROW TENTS

### **Indoor Grow Tents**

Cramped, hard to water, and terrible for air circulation. A wire rack in a spare room or garage works better and costs less. You can't scale a grow tent.

# Helpful Blogs from Microgreen Manager

Five posts to read alongside this guide — in this order.

[microgreenmanager.com/blog](https://microgreenmanager.com/blog)

These are the five most relevant posts from the Microgreen Manager blog for someone using this starter kit. Each one goes deeper on a topic covered here.

## [How to Start Growing Microgreens for Profit with Less Than \\$1,000](#)

The companion blog to this document. Goes deeper on setup, cost breakdowns, and the exact steps to get your first trays in the ground.

## [The Exact Order I Would Learn to Grow & Sell Microgreens If I Started Over](#)

A sequenced roadmap for what crops are the most important to learn when you're just getting started.

## [The 3 Best Microgreen Varieties to Grow for Beginners](#)

Radish, pea, and broccoli — why these three, how to grow them, and what to expect on your first harvest.

## [Stages of Microgreen Production — Soak, Plant, Germinate, Lights, Harvest, Pack](#)

A complete walkthrough of the full production process from planting to packing. Read this before your first tray.

## [My Top Mistakes Starting & Scaling My Microgreen Farm](#)

What I wish I'd known in year one. Read this after you've got your first trays planted and you're thinking about what comes next.