Step 1
Select container.

Step 2
Trace and trim piece of moisture-barrier material same size as container top.

Step 3
(a) Select plant saucer that fits 1/2 to 1/3 the way inside container. Trace and drill hole sized for watering tube.
(b) Cut hole in center saucer mid-point, sized to fit yogurt or cottage-cheese carton.

Step 4
Set saucer inside container. Mark 1/4-inch below where bottom of saucer rests. Remove saucer, and drill 1/4-inch hole in container side at this line. This is the water-overflow drain. Set container aside.

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS TO BUILD YOUR OWN SELF-WATERING CONTAINER.

MATERIALS
- Container (plastic, fiber or ceramic; no holes)
- Moisture-barrier material
- Plastic plant saucer
- Filter fabric
- 16- to 24-ounce cottage-cheese or yogurt container
- Watering tube (copper pipe, plastic tube, bamboo rod or PVC pipe—6 inches longer than container height)
- Potting soil
- Decorative topping (mulch, shells, moss, stones, et cetera)
- Plants
- Potting soil
- Decorative topping (mulch, shells, moss, stones, et cetera)
- Plants
Self-watering Container with SOIL WICK

Step 5
Drill dozens of 1/8-inch holes into sides and bottom of yogurt or cottage-cheese carton. 
(b) Insert carton into saucer hole.

Step 6
Line yogurt or cottage-cheese carton with filter fabric. Fill with soil.

Step 7
(a) Cut bottom of watering tube at an angle. 
(b) Cut 3-inch circle of filter fabric; cut X at center. Place over watering-tube hole in saucer. 
(c) Insert watering tube through fabric and saucer hole.

Step 8
(a) Place saucer with wick and watering tube inside container. 
(b) Add potting soil to 2 inches from container top. 
(c) Cover soil with moisture barrier (from step 2). Cut Xs in fabric where plants will be placed. 
(d) Add plants 
(e) Top moisture barrier with attractive textural material.