

From 'Old' MacDonald to the Modern Farmer: New Developments in Farming Techniques

Because the world's population continues to increase every year, farmers have to develop innovative ways to grow more crops with less land in order to feed the growing global population.



{ Modern Farming Methods }

Hydroponics means growing plants using nutrient solutions in water without soil. The roots may be in the nutrient solution only or in a substance like gravel. No soil is needed, and because the water remains in the system it is able to be reused. This conserves water and lowers water costs. Some of the lettuce in the cafeteria is grown hydroponically and comes from a special farm nearby. Hydroponics is currently being used to grow fresh salad crops in Antarctica!



Aeroponics means growing plants in an air/mist environment without soil. The roots of the plants are in an enclosed area and are misted with a nutrient-rich water solution. The stem and leaves are not enclosed. Growing plants in this kind of controlled environment helps reduce the threat of pests and disease. Growing plants aeroponically conserves water and energy and allows for rapid food production. In fact, aeroponics systems can reduce water usage by 98%. NASA has even experimented with growing plants using aeroponics in space.

Unique Farming Locations: Due to the decrease in available land for growing crops across the globe, farmers and gardeners have had to get creative in order to keep up with the demand for food. Some farmers in New York City have even begun gardening on rooftops!

