How to Raise and Lower the Light Hood

To raise and lower the Light Hood, wrap one hand around the bottom of the Light Post just above the Grow Deck. Grasp the upper part of the Light Post with your other hand and push up or push down the Light Hood.

When planting a new Seed Pod Kit, the Light Hood should be set to the lowest position before planting a new Seed Pod Kit.

How to Raise the Light Hood

1. Push up on the Light Hood, push down on lower Light Hood

How to Lower the Light Hood

1. Push up on the Light Hood, push down on lower Light Hood

Place Your Garden...

- On a sturdy, water-tolerant surface
- Under a space that allows 16” (41cm) clearance for the full height of raised Light Hood
- Near a standard electrical outlet, per local regulations
- In a 45-76°F (16-26°C) environment (optimal)
- Away from reach of children or pets
- Away from direct sources of heat (e.g., stove, furnace vents) or cold (e.g., window drafts, A/C vents)
- AeroGarden do not need additional light or a sunny window. In fact, too much direct sunlight can overheat your plants.

Order replacement Seed Pod Kits and Accessories at www.aerogarden.com

Welcome to the world of indoor gardening!

Keep this Guide!

2 Easy Steps To Get Your AeroGarden Up and Growing

1. Adjust Light Hood

The Light Hood should be set to the lowest position before planting a new Seed Pod Kit.

2. Set Bowl into Base

Check to be sure that Bowl is securely seated on Air Coupling in Base.

Aerogarden Sprout LED Model numbers: 100304-BLK/WHT/RED

Electrical Rating: 120V~60Hz, 0.14A

AeroGarden Sprout LED Model numbers: 100304-BLK/WHT/RED

Electrical Rating: 120V~60Hz, 0.14A

Congratulations! Your garden is ready to grow. It really is that easy!

For more details on planting, growing and harvesting your AeroGarden, please turn the page.
**Gardening Tips for Maximum Harvests**

**PLANTING**
- Many Seed Pods are labeled for height. Gardens grow and look their best when all of your Seed Pods are of similar height, and short plants in front, open spaces in back, and tall plants in front. Open spaces in back are needed by the plants near the back of your AeroGarden to get the light they need to flourish.
- Do not remove Labels from SeedPods. The labels identify the plant type and plant height, so know the germination time, and inhibit algae growth.
- Grow Domes help regulate moisture and temperature for optimal growth. Leave them on until plants are nearly touching the domes.
- Seed Pod Kits for large plants like Tomatoes and Peppers often receive leave Seed Pods to compensate for the large plant size.

**GERMINATION**
- Some seeds germinate in less than 24 hours. Some take 24 days or more. Most labels estimate an average of how long your seeds will take to germinate but many factors impact germination.
- As a rule of thumb, if you are comfortable, so are your plants. However, plants are impacted by temperature. Cold weather plants like Salad Greens germinate better in cooler temperatures. Heat lovers like Tomatoes and Peppers will germinate better in warmer temperatures.
- Many seed labels estimate 7–10 days to allow for slight variation in growing time.

**PRUNING**
- Prune your plants, don’t cut your lights! You will achieve more compact, beautiful growth and bigger harvests of your produce to keep the lights closer to all of your plants in your garden.
- Fast growing plants (like Basil) may need to remove the lights too soon. Prune! Pruning the plants just above a new node (Diagram A) and leaving the lights down will ensure that slow-growing and low-light loving plants get the light they need to flourish.
- Prune often to maintain a healthy garden, but never take more than 1/3 of each individual plant at a time.
- Plants compete for light. Left unattended, more vigorous growers can actually block the slowest growing of your plants leading to misshapen growth, and even death of your lights due to lack of light. Spreading leaves must be trimmed (Diagram B) to make sure that all plants get enough light to thrive and produce key yields.
- Not pruning is the number one gardening mistake made by new AeroGardeners! Prune early and prune often — and enjoy your first small harvests! There will be plenty more to come.
- Finally, pruning = harvesting. Each time you prune you get new leaf set (Diagram A) and leaving the lights down low will reduce the light intensity below the lights. After pruning, lower your lights back down if growth is slow.

**WATER**
- Plants grown in the AeroGarden are designed to thrive with most municipal tap water. If your water is especially hard, improved results can be seen with distilled water or reverse osmosis water, but this is not needed in most cases.
- Do not use well or soft water or softened water. Most well water contains a high amount of dissolved solids that upset the balance of our nutrients, and softened water adds sodium. Use a tested water conditioner in plants suddenly transplanted, or not as growing well.
- For best results, keep your lights near the “FITS Here” line. This avoids the air bubbles in the water and run only when the Grow Light is on.

**LIGHTS**
- Plants love light! Always keep your Grow Lights as close to your plants as possible. As a result, plants should be 1–2 inches beneath the lights.
- Always check to see if you can prune plants instead of raising the lights. After pruning, lower your lights back down if growth is slow.
- You do not need to replace your LED lights unless individual plants dry out or die. Studies have a 5+ year life span.

**NUTRIENTS**
- Typically, your plants will need nutrients every 2 weeks. Follow instructions for feeding American and European Nutrient packaging. Add nutrients directly into water bowl.
- More isn’t better. Recharge the nutrient solution to add “just a little extra.” Too much nutrient can hurt your plants.
- Nutrient requirements for Tomatoes and Peppers may change as plants grow. Please refer to the Liquid Nutrient packaging for specific details.

**POLLENATING**
- Because most people don’t have bees in their home, you will need to hand pollinate your flowers (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) to get fruit. You can purchase bees or use other pollination methods.
- Use our “Be the Bee Pollinator” to spread the pollen.

**HARVESTING**
- Many people grow tomatoes to harvest to can. Don’t! Most gardens will produce more, for a longer period, with frequent harvests. You almost can’t begin to harvest (even early enough to set your garden up for a long-term growing season)
- AeroGarden work best with a harvesting method called “cut and come again.” Simply put, you enjoy frequent small harvests and then watch as the plants rapidly regrow - ready for harvest again and again.
- Enjoy smaller harvests for the first month or two until plants mature and larger harvests are available.
- Harvest often to maintain a healthy garden, but never take more than 1/3 of each individual plant at a time.

**USER MAINTENANCE**
- Any servicing is to be performed by an authorized service representative. Use original packaging for storage when the appliance is not in use.

**LID - ON/OFF**
- The ON/Off switch is located on the side of the base.
- Press & Release to Temporarily Turn Light Off.
- Press & Hold 2 seconds When ‘Add Nutrient’ Reminder activates (every 2 weeks).

**MAYBE YOUR QUESTION IS:**
- ‘Add Nutrients’ light comes on (every 2 weeks), add Liquid Nutrients into the bowl per directions on the nutrient packaging, and top up the water level to ‘70 For Here’. Press and hold the Light button for 2 seconds to turn off the blinking reminder light and reset the nutrient timer.

**CAUTION**
- Do not immerse cord in water or other liquid, and unplug cord from outlet when not in use.
- You are cautioned that any changes or modifications not expressly approved in this manual could void your authority to operate this equipment.
- You can help protect the environment! Please remember to respect the local regulations: hand in the non-working electrical furnishing for appropriate disposal.

**Copyright & Trademarks**
- “Like” us for special offers and community fun! You have any questions please feel free to contact our customer service representatives at customer@aerogarden.com.

**NEXT: Planting Your Garden**

1. **Add Water**
   - Add water to bowl to “70 For Here” on View Window.
   - Use room temperature tap water or bottled distilled water.
   - Do not use well water which can contain the upset the balance of our nutrients, and softened water, which contains levels of sodium often harmful to plants.

2. **Add Seed Pods**
   - Insert Seed Pods into openings in Grow Deck.
   - Seed Pod Labels often identify plant height to assist with placement. Look for height notations on Labels.
   - Plants grow best and look best if medium or tall plants are in back opening, and short plants are in front opening (see diagram).
   - Seed Pod Kits for Tomatoes and Peppers often include both Seed Pods and Plant Spacers. Carefully follow your Tomato/Pepper planters ample room to grow.
   - Do not remove Labels from Seed Pods. The labels identify the plant type and plant height, show the germination time, and inhibit algae growth.

3. **Add Grow Domes**
   - Place a Grow Dome over each Seed Pod.
   - Grow Domes rest on Seed Pods and may not ‘nap’ into place. It is not necessary for Grow Domes to cover any Seed Pod. Grow Domes help regulate moisture and temperature for optimal growth. Leave them on until plants are nearly touching the domes.
   - Grow Domes help regulate moisture and temperature for optimal growth. Leave them on until plants are nearly touching the domes.
   - Seed Pod Kits for large plants like Tomatoes and Peppers often receive leave Seed Pods to compensate for the large plant size.

4. **Add Nutrients**
   - Nutrient instructions are printed on the packaging, as well as in the Seed Pod Kit Instructions booklet. Read and follow instructions carefully.
   - Use only the recommended amount of Liquid Nutrient.
   - Add nutrient directly into Bowl when first planting your Seed Pod Kits, and when the ‘Add Nutrients’ reminder activates (every 2 weeks).
   - Do not overfill! More isn’t better. Too much nutrient may be harmful to your plants.
   - Always top off water level when adding Liquid Nutrients. For best results, top off the water level after your garden regularly.

5. **Plug In and Grow**
   - Plug in your AeroGarden. Aerator will produce air bubbles in water bowl and Grow Light will illuminate.
   - Lower Light Hood to its lowest position to give Seed Pods optimum light.

**Congratulations!** You’re on your way to a beautiful garden.