

# Lessons Learned Setting Up a Tabletop Strawberry Growing System

Kate Fessler, University of Minnesota - St. Paul, MN

Hydroponic tabletop strawberry systems are a common means of production in many countries across the world, but have never been tested in Minnesota. Over the course of a pilot season at two University of Minnesota sites in St. Paul and Morris, researchers learned valuable lessons about the pitfalls and best practices associated with this technique. In this talk, we aim to walk through the elements of setting up our tabletop system, including cultivar selection, design, construction, and maintenance, as well as discuss our preliminary findings associated with each of those steps.



Kate Fessler is a Masters student in the Applied Plant Sciences program at the University of Minnesota, under the supervision of Drs. Emily Hoover and Neil Anderson. She grew up outside of Detroit, Michigan on her family's small alpaca farm. A 2018 graduate from Smith College in Northampton Massachusetts, she has a degree in Biological Sciences and a concentration in sustainable foods.

She is a former Fulbright fellow who has lived and worked in Finland, Ireland, Peru, and the United States on projects ranging from apple orchard renovation to wildlife conservation. Her current project is assessing the efficacy of a tabletop strawberry production system for Minnesota's climate.