

Hydroponics

2 Read and answer.

Why is hydroponics so successful?

'In contrast to planting in an open field,' explains Abdulla, 'managing a crop in a hydroponic environment is completely controlled. In traditional farming, environmental factors such as climate, soil quality, available water, sunshine, warmth, pest and disease, weeds and nutrient levels, all affected the success or failure of our outdoor crops; but in hydroponics, all these factors are controlled so we can create the best growing conditions for all the plants and maximise crop yield.'

What plants can grow using hydroponics?

'In general, many small vegetables can be grown in this way,' Khalid explains. 'These include spinach, cabbage, mustard, lettuce, herbs and some flowering plants. And,' adds Abdulla, 'slightly larger plants such as tomatoes, beans, maize and chillies can also be grown.'

What is the main difference between traditional farming and hydroponics, according to Abdulla?

Name three environmental factors that affect traditional farming.

How do you think these factors affect the success or failure of a crop?

What types of plants are suitable for using in hydroponics?