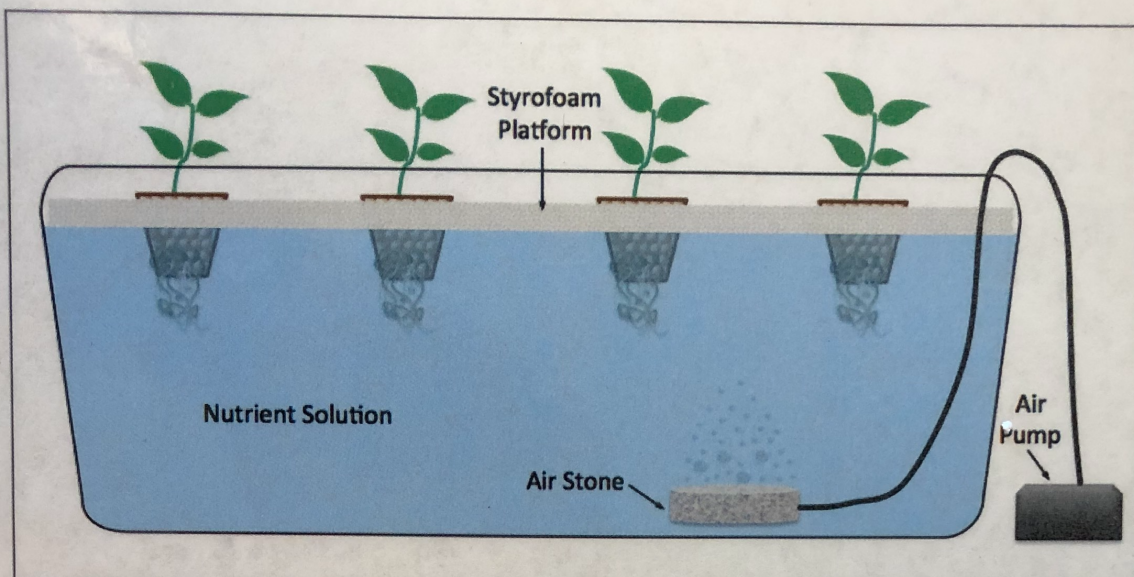


Parts of a Hydroponic System



Nutrient Solution – fertilizer in water for plant growth

Air pump/stone – roots need oxygen to grow (through the process of cellular respiration)

Plants – any type of plant grown for above-ground fruit/foilage

Plant containers may float on a raft of Styrofoam or be suspended from holes in a plastic lid.

Most important considerations:

- 1) **pH levels** – nutrients are only available to the plants at particular pH levels, depending upon the crop; outside the optimum pH, plants will not take up nutrients even if sufficient nutrients are in solution
- 2) **ec levels** – Electrical conductivity levels – Fertilizers are made of salts, which form ions in water and increase electrical conductivity. More electrical conductivity = more fertilizer salts.