

Increase Profitability by Increasing HydraFiber[®] Inclusion Rates



PROVEN AT HIGHER INCLUSION RATES

Most growers begin with 30% HydraFiber in their blends to replace more costly or less dependable materials. Once they realize that HydraFiber blends deliver a more robust root system and start seeing better margins, these growers look to increase their inclusion rate. Several growers have seen success with rate up to 50% HydraFiber in finishing their crops.

Recent lab tests conducted by RHP certified the suitability of using HydraFiber[®] Ultra at rates of up to 50% in the growing mix, without needing to increase nitrogen rates. Located in the Netherlands, RHP is widely recognized around the world for more than 55 years of expertise in monitoring and certifying the quality of substrates. Our internal trials also show that new HydraFiber[®] EZ Blend can be used at 50% rates.

MAXIMIZED PRODUCTION SAVINGS

Increasing your HydraFiber inclusion rate has several advantages:

- > Enhances physical properties of your blend, including aeration and water-holding capacity.
- > Reduces cost of labor and water with less frequent irrigations.
- > Helps offset raw material shortages in poor harvest years.
- > Increases savings on your mix – talk to your Profile Technical Account Manager for potential savings specifics.

INCLUSION RATE STEPS

		HYDRAFIBER INCLUSION RATE		
		20 - 30%	35 - 40%	45 - 50%
CONTAINER SIZE	4 in.	X	X	X
	Quart	X	X	X
	6 in.		X	X
	> 6 in.		X	X

MINIMAL PRODUCTION CHANGES

Growers report seamless transitions and are now using HydraFiber blends in their production every day, all day with very few adjustments to their production.

- > HydraFiber does not influence the working of PGRs, at any inclusion rate.
- > Fertilizer regimes should not require adjustment.
- > During the cooler months, it is suggested to increase feed by 25% (concentration), to compensate for less frequent fertigation.

NOTE: Because every operation is different, it is recommended to trial before changing HydraFiber inclusion rates to determine the best results for your crops.*

LIME RATE ADJUSTMENTS

PEAT BLENDS

If you are using a peat-based media, the lime rate of the mix needs to be adjusted when changing your HydraFiber inclusion rate. Your Profile Technical Account Manager has a lime rate calculator and can assist you in determining the correct rate for your situation.

For every 10% peat which is removed and replaced with HydraFiber, reduce lime by 10%. For example:

- > When increasing HydraFiber inclusion rate from 30 to 40%, reduce lime rate by 10%.
- > Then when increasing HydraFiber inclusion rate from 40 to 50%, reduce lime rate by an additional 10%.

For inclusion rate increases greater than 20%, contact your Profile Technical Account Manager for advice as lime rate adjustment percentages may vary.

COIR BLENDS

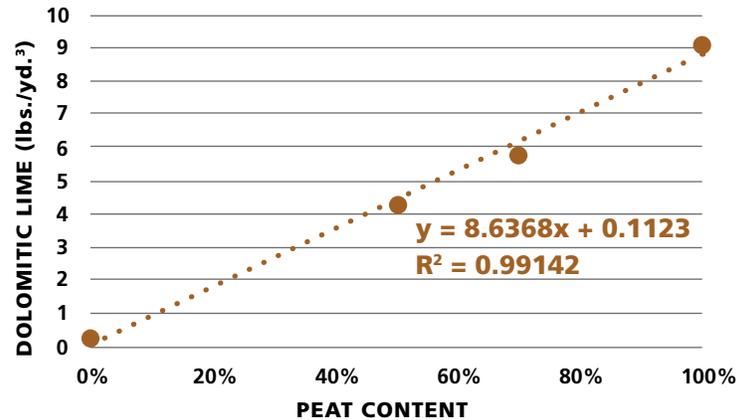
In coir blends, lime rates most likely do not need to be adjusted. However, if peat is being removed from the blend in a coir mix, talk to your Profile Technical Account Manager.

PERLITE REPLACEMENT

When substituting HydraFiber for perlite, no lime rate change is required.

NOTE: Run several batches of your HydraFiber blend and test initial pH. Retest after 24 hours, at 7 days and at 14 days. Adjust as needed. Your Profile Technical Account Manager can provide additional information.

FOR EVERY 10% PEAT REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH HYDRAFIBER, LIME SHOULD BE REDUCED APPROXIMATELY 10%.



GRAPH BASED ON RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY DR. RYAN DICKSON.

EQUIPMENT

- > Adjust the setting for the HydraFiber to the inclusion rate desired.
- > Adjust the lime rate settings on the machine if needed.
- > Increasing the inclusion rate may lead to a different flow of the filling hoppers.
- > Check the filling of the smaller containers at higher inclusion rates. There is a filling attachment for your equipment available – contact your AgriNomix rep or Profile Technical Account Manager for details.

PEAT 60%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA
160WB 40%



GAURA PRODUCTION

COIR 60%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA
365WB 40%



SPIDER PLANT PRODUCTION

PEAT 60%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA
065WB 40%



POINSETTIA PRODUCTION

WATERING AND GENERAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- > HydraFiber has unique physical properties which can enhance air and water-holding properties. General irrigation strategy may need to be altered when switching to HydraFiber. Many growers believe that HydraFiber can be forgiving; however, any substrate type can be overwatered, particularly when growers are using it for the first time.
- > Poor rooting is an indicator of waterlogged substrates in most crops. Good rooting is correlated to adequate oxygen in the root zone.
- > Substrates containing HydraFiber can exhibit surface drying, where the top is dry but adequate water is in the root zone. Some growers may choose to just wet the upper surface early in production to prevent leaching of the substrate and encourage rooting. However, in general it is best to avoid frequent surface irrigation which doesn't go further than the surface of the pot.
- > Establish container weight guidelines to aid in checking irrigation needs.
- > On a daily irrigation, check what time of year it is, environmental conditions (sunny / dry / raining / snowing, etc.), and the plant stage in the cycle of the crop.
- > Watch for surface algae growth as this can be an indicator of excess watering.
- > Check the plant for visual clues. For example, if the plant is wilting, is it dry or is it wilting from excess watering?
- > Check the root growth of the plants on a weekly basis.
- > During the cooler months or early stages of the crop cycle when irrigation frequency is reduced, consider increasing the feed by up to 25% to compensate for less frequent fertigation / less concentration of feed.
- > Avoid saturating pots right after transplanting. Water as needed to keep the plug or liner moist and allow for plants to root. Once the plant is fully rooted, leach as needed.
- > Take a water sample and send for analysis at least once per year.

PUSHING THEIR HYDRAFIBER BLENDS: ALTMAN PLANTS

JEFF MURPHY

OPERATIONS MANAGER OF PRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Jeff reports that after trialing HydraFiber Ultra in baskets, pots and packs in early 2018 at their Giddings, TX location, they completely switched to HydraFiber blends for propagation and finishing. Starting point was 30% HydraFiber / 70% peat. Quickly apparent was the better, faster rooting, plus not having to water as much and plants holding moisture better in the store. Heading into 2019, Jeff worked with his growers to push their mixes to 35% HydraFiber / 65% peat. His goal: to increase HydraFiber by 5% every year until they hit 50:50 or greater. His thinking: Incremental increases are important to get to where you want to be while still letting your growing teams be comfortable with HydraFiber.

PEAT 60%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA
065WB 40%



CYCLAMEN PRODUCTION

COIR 50%
PEAT 50%



POINSETTIA PRODUCTION

COIR 55%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA
090WB 45%

QUESTIONS?

Contact a HydraFiber expert
at 800-508-8681 today.

WE WILL HELP YOU TAKE YOUR HYDRAFIBER MIXES TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
TALK TO YOUR PROFILE TECHNICAL ACCOUNT MANAGER FOR GUIDELINES.

PUSHING THEIR HYDRAFIBER BLENDS: BATTLEFIELD FARMS

MARC VERDEL
HEAD GROWER

Marc says Battlefield ran trials in 2016 with 20% and 30% HydraFiber Ultra blends on a number of key crops. When their HydraFiber processing unit was installed in Spring 2017 they jumped to 40% for all of their young plant and finished production. Marc's team was eager to go even higher, and internal testing by our R&D team plus some in-depth university research showed them it was possible. In 2018, Battlefield direct-stuck poinsettias in Week 32 into a 50% HydraFiber Ultra blend. Even before Halloween, the crop looked outstanding and they were able to ship out exceptional finished plants.

PEAT 50%
HYDRAFIBER ULTRA 065WB 50%



GERANIUM PRODUCTION

CONTROL:
PEAT-PERLITE MIX



COLEUS PRODUCTION

PEAT 50%
HYDRAFIBER EZ BLEND 50%



**HYDRAFIBER COMES FROM PROFILE PRODUCTS,
PROUDLY OFFERING RESEARCHED AND PROVEN
SOIL / MEDIA SOLUTIONS FOR OVER 50 YEARS.**

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