



Pad Mixing Guide for HydraFiber® EZ Blend

OPTIMIZING YIELD

When pad mixing, follow these steps:

- > Determine batch size (total yards being mixed).
- > Using 10 yards as the example, to mix a 70% peat:30% EZ Blend mix, use 7 yards peat and 8 bales of EZ Blend (3 yards).
- > Measure out the 7 yards of peat. NOTE: One 110-cu. ft. compressed tower of peat is approximately 8.2 yards expanded.
- > Unwrap the 8 bales of EZ Blend on a pad and pile the material on top of the peat.
- > Add amendments to the pile.
- > Mix following standard pad mixing procedure.
- > NOTE: We recommend that you add water to the mixture during blending following our Water Management tips.
- > After mixing, check for blend consistency and balls – if satisfied with the mix texture, then blending is complete.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Managing moisture at blending and during production is important to avoid re-wettability issues. We recommend that growers adopt a QC test to assess substrate wettability in mix production – ask your Profile Technical Account Manager for detailed information.

DON'T OVERWATER:

Because of its lighter color, the surface of HydraFiber mixes dries more quickly than darker-colored substrates. The media may still have sufficient moisture below the surface and care should be taken to not water based on surface drying alone.

DON'T WATER BASED ON TRADITIONAL POT WEIGHT:

Mixes with HydraFiber are lighter in weight than conventional mixes, so it is important to assess watering needs by other means than just weight. The best results come from both picking up the pots and visually checking the plants.

NOTE: For growers familiar with HydraFiber Ultra 065WB, EZ Blend is similar in physical properties so irrigation is comparable. EZ Blend is darker in color than Ultra, but it will still surface dry like Ultra does.

SURFACTANTS

EZ Blend is made with a surfactant, but is only included for the EZ Blend itself, not the entire mix. We recommend adding a surfactant, but growers should reduce the addition relative to the amount of untreated raw materials.

NITROGEN (N) INCLUSION

We recommend supplemental N be added to EZ Blend at all rates of inclusion, using Blue Chip (generic name; brand known as Nitroform 39-0-0). Blue Chip is a methylene urea-based N fertilizer which is commonly used in bark-based substrates to offset N immobilization.

Blue Chip is considered relatively safe and has a long history of being used in bark-based horticultural substrates. It is unlike polymer-coated controlled release fertilizers, as the release relies on microbial breakdown of the particle to release nitrogen. Polymer-coated controlled release fertilizers rely on a coating in which fissures develop in the coating due to change in moisture and temperature to release nutrients.

Our rate recommendation for Blue Chip is 2.5 lbs./yd. at 100% EZ Blend. For example, in a blend of 70% peat:30% EZ Blend, we recommend adding 0.75 lb./yd. of Blue Chip to the final blend (or 0.29 lb. N per cu. yd.).

NOTE 1: Certain blends may require more or less N depending on other raw materials being added to the mix. We recommend growers consult with their Profile Technical Account Manager.

NOTE 2: Controlled-release fertilizer or other fertilizers can be used, but we recommend growers talk to their Profile Technical Account Manager for adjustment guidelines.



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

FOR OTHER MIX TECHNIQUES (BALE BUSTER, RIBBON BLENDING, ETC.), CONTACT YOUR PROFILE TECHNICAL ACCOUNT MANAGER FOR GUIDELINES.



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