

# Pad Mixing Guide for HydraFiber<sup>®</sup> Ultra Towers

## **OPTIMIZING YIELD**

When pad mixing, the following example will assist in calculating the amount of HydraFiber Ultra needed.

Example based on a 70 Peat / 30 HydraFiber blend and a total batch size of 60 cu. yds.:

Note: HydraFiber Ultra towers have a net weight of 1,200 lbs and an expanded volume of 2.4 lbs / cu. ft.<sup>1</sup>

- A HydraFiber Ultra tower is 500 cubic feet / 18.5 cu. yds.
- For a 30% blend, one HydraFiber tower would be mixed with 5 towers (@ 8.2 cu. yds. each) of peat.
- Unwrap each tower of peat and the tower of HydraFiber and use equipment to break the towers into smaller pieces that can be mixed together.
- 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 if satisfied with the mix texture, then blending is complete.
- Pad mixing is suitable, but peat processing equipment is highly recommended for the most efficient blending and to minimize any product loss.
- Recommendations are for HydraFiber Ultra 365 only. For additional products, please consult with your technical account manager.

<sup>1</sup> This indicates yield when opened on a pad or without equipment.

## 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 during the 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.

### **SURFACTANTS**

If using a peat-based or bark-based mix, the addition of a surfactant is recommended.

Questions? Contact a HydraFiber expert at 800-496-0955 today. For other mix techniques (bale buster, ribbon blending, etc.), contact your Profile technical account manager for guidelines.







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