

Techniques for Hand-Blending HydraFiber® Into Substrates for Trial Purposes

These tips will help your team hand-blend raw HydraFiber Advanced Substrate with other components to create small batches of high-quality growing mix for trialing. NOTE: While HydraFiber standard packaging is highly compressed 50-lb. bales, all sample trialing material is shipped in plastic bags as ready-to-use, “fluffed” material.

First Determine the Bulk Density of Each Component



STEP 1

Determine the bulk density by your preferred method. For this guide, we are using a 20-liter cylinder with a 1.9-cm mesh screen.



STEP 2

Pour each component through the screen until the material has completely filled the cylinder, with some excess material touching the screen. Note: Do not shake, drop or tap the cylinder when filling as this can artificially induce settling of the material.



STEP 3

Once the cylinder is full, use a straight edge to level the component to the top of the cylinder as shown here.

STEP 4

Place the cylinder and its contents (minus screen) onto a scale. Record as weight per volume of your device. Use these weights to calculate the amount of each raw component that you will need for an accurate mix. For example, if you want to make a 70% peat-30% HydraFiber blend and the peat weighs 10 lbs. per cubic foot, you would use 70% of the 10 lb. weight, or 7 lbs. of peat. In that same fashion, if the HydraFiber weighs 1.7 lbs. per cubic foot, you would use 30% of the 1.7 lb. weight, or 0.51 lbs. of HydraFiber. The result is that your 70:30 sample blend would be made with 7 lbs. of peat and 0.51 lbs. of HydraFiber.

Then Mix the Blend

After calculating the component content, you can begin mixing the blend.



STEP 7

Gently work the material in by hand until components are about 50% mixed.



STEP 5

Using the technique described above, fill a small bin with the weight of component per cubic foot. Start with the largest component first.



STEP 8

This tool, supplied with your HydraFiber sample, is designed to thoroughly mix the components and attaches to any power drill for ease of use.



STEP 6

Follow the same technique to weigh out the HydraFiber and add it to the bin.



STEP 9

With the drill in the REVERSE setting, mix approximately 2 minutes or until 100% blend is achieved. For best results, **DO NOT OVERWORK** the mix. Note: This is the time to add any water needed to elevate the moisture content of the blend.

Questions?

Contact a HydraFiber expert at 800-496-0955 today for additional hand-blending advice or the devices used. These tips are also available in a short hand-blending video at bit.ly/HydraFiberHandBlend.