



HORTICUBES® “HOW TO USE” GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

OASIS® Horticultures® Growing Medium offers a versatile system that has multiple applications for crops requiring high water usage. Hydroponic seed germination of vegetables, herbs, flowers, and foliage plant propagation are some examples. This specialized medium has been designed to drain off excess water from the base of the seed or cutting, yet provide for the proper balance of air/water needed for good root development.

COMMONLY USED CROPS

Lettuce **Spinach** Basil **Tomatoes** Pepper **Onions** Thyme **Dill**

MEDIA PREPARATION

OASIS Horticultures growing medium is sterile upon receipt and provides a clean start for seed germination and unrooted cuttings. Make sure greenhouse benches and trays are clean and sterile before laying out the media product.

WATERING

Thoroughly water in the media to prepare it for seeding or sticking cuttings. This can be accomplished by either overhead mist for one hour, submersion of the foam in the tray until it is completely saturated, or hose watering with a breaker nozzle until fully watered. To eliminate any possibility of dry spots in the foam, it is critical to make sure the product is completely wet.

Horticultures Growing Medium does not require leaching to adjust the pH level or remove soluble salts.

SEED GERMINATION

Horticultures Growing Medium has a specially designed hole to accept seeds either from automatic seeding equipment or by hand. This unique hole has a large opening to receive the seed which then tapers in order to set the seed properly. A small narrow passage hole to the bottom of the cube allows for the roots to secure the emerging plant. The hole also directs the roots down through the cube as they develop. Use of either pelleted or naked seed is acceptable.

POST SEEDING

Place Horticultures Media in a 10" x 20" plastic tray or directly on a clean seed germination bench. Maintain a water reservoir initially at the level of 3/4" up from the bottom of the foam. Do not allow the seeds to sit in free-standing water.

If working with seeds in trays on open benches, protect with a translucent covering to maintain a 100% humidity level at the location of the seed. Clear plastic is not recommended, as exposure to direct sunlight may cook, or burn, the seeds. Remove the cover as soon as germination starts in order to avoid disease problems.

Additional instructions on reverse side



If a germination chamber is being used, be sure to maintain 100% humidity at the seed by controlling the water level in the chamber or by proper regulation of the mist cycle.

BOTTOM HEAT

Provide the medium temperatures of 70° to 80°F for proper callus initiation and root development. It is recommended that a bulb thermometer be placed in the medium and the bottom heat temperature be governed by the temperature of the Horticultures Growing Medium. Medium may be 5° to 7°F lower than air temperatures, due to evaporative cooling.

SEED GERMINATION

After the seed germinates and the cotyledon and root system begins to develop, the water should be supplemented with nutrient from a soluble fertilizer, such as 20-20-20, at 100ppm concentration on a constant feed program. All coverings should be removed, temperatures maintained above 65° F, and proper light levels sustained until the plants are ready to be transplanted into the production system.

TRANSPLANTING

Each individual cell unit is most easily separated by cutting it with a knife, instead of manually breaking the sheets apart. This root pruning aids in stimulation of the development of new roots.

PLANT PROPAGATION

Use of Horticultures® Growing Medium for vegetative cuttings of certain foliage and woody ornamental crops provides an excellent rooting environment. Certain handling methods, however, should be followed in order for successful propagation.

STICKING CUTTINGS

Horticultures Growing Medium comes with a pre-punched hole, ready for cutting insertion. Since sticking depth of the cutting is critical, they should be inserted at least 1/3rd of the cube depth, and not more than 3/4's of the cube depth. After sticking the cuttings, continue irrigation. Manage a good air/moisture exchange in the cube cells during the rooting process. Follow the recommended misting or watering cycle for each particular crop being grown. Always keep the cube cells moist for best results.

SPACING

Spacing between the Horticultures Growing Medium after insertion of the cuttings is determined by the overall size, or canopy, of the plant material. Allow enough room for the cuttings to grow.

WATERING

Water cuttings immediately after sticking and spacing the plants. Continue watering until the plants reach the callus stage. Be careful not to over water. After the first misting, follow a the production schedule recommended for the specific crop. Propagation schedules will vary based upon crop, season, and geographic location.

