

HYDROPONIC MEDIA

There are several growing media used in the hydroponic industry, and their application depends on personal preference and on the type of hydroponic system employed. Here is a list of the most popular media and how they might be used:

HYDROTON

Hydroton or clay aggregate is expanded round clay pellets and is one of the more widely used media on the market. It can be used on its own in aeroponics and deep water culture or combined with other media in ebb and flow or top drip systems. It allows maximum drainage and aeration. Hydroton can also be re-used if cleaned and sanitized properly with hydrogen peroxide.

ROCKWOOL

Rockwool is another industry standard. It is derived from rhyolite that has been melted and spun into a fibrous form, reminding many users of fiberglass. It is non-degradable and has a one time use. It comes in many different sizes and configurations to accommodate your particular growing needs.

PERLITE

Perlite is a medium that is commonly found in soilless mixes. It is made from puffed glass and is very light. Be careful using this media by itself, as it will float.

VERMICULITE

Vermiculite is a natural mined medium. It has been used in the hydroponic industry for a long time. It has great water and nutrient holding capacity, and is a standard component in most soilless mixes.

COCONUT COIR

Coconut Coir is a medium that is becoming very popular in hydroponics. It works best when combined with another medium such as hydroton. Coir has excellent nutrient and water holding capacity.

SILICA STONE

Silica Stone is one of the newest media in this industry. It is derived from potassium silicate. This medium can improve yields by increasing plants' resistance to stress.

Here are some media mixes that we recommend for use in ebb and flow or top drip hydroponic systems:

- 60-80% hydroton to 20-40% coconut coir
- 70% hydroton to 30% small rockwool cubes
- 50% hydroton to 50% silica stone (aeroponic friendly)



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