

5 THINGS

EVERY HYDROPONIC GARDNER SHOULD KNOW

1. PH, PH, PH!!

95% of the problems we see stem from a pH issue. When using the complete nutrients that we offer, plants should not have nutrient imbalances or deficiencies. When imbalances occur, it is usually a problem that is due to improper pH levels. When these levels are outside 5.7-6.5 (for most plants) nutrients begin to be locked out (are unable to be taken up by the plant). Correcting the pH will resolve this problem immediately.

2. CLEAN ME!

Dirty tools and equipment lead to disease and pest problems. Tools should be clean and sterile, and work areas should be clean. Systems and trays that have algae build up will open the door to pest problems. Many pests breed in or eat algae. When open trays have green or brown build-up, CLEAN THEM. This will substantially improve your results.

3. KISS

This is a classic acronym in tech support and other industries. It stands for Keep It Simple, Stupid. When problems begin to arise, many customers will begin to add supplements for this or that. When other problems arise, they will add even more supplements. Before long, they don't really know which supplement is doing what, and they are spending a lot of money for nothing. Complete fertilizers do not require supplements to achieve growth. Supplements can be a great addition for certain things, or at certain times, but when things start to go wrong, it's best to go back to the basics.

4. BE PATIENT, I'M NOT THAT HUNGRY YET!

Many times in soil, and especially in hydroponics, we get ahead of ourselves. Our plants begin to grow fast, so we start to increase their food and increase it substantially. The reasoning usually is, "if it can grow this fast with just a little food, imagine what it could do if I give it more!." When plants take off in growth, it means that they are happy with their environment and nutrient content. An increase in food does not correlate with increased plant growth. While plants do need more food as they get older and larger, it is best to remember that it's harder to underfeed a plant than it is to overfeed a plant.

5. THE LOW SALT DIET

"Salts" is another word for nutrients in liquid fertilizers. These salts are the nutrients that are taken up in the plant. Over time, these salts build up on the media, and on the plant's roots. Salt build-up can lead to poor plant health, and pH and nutrient imbalances. Salts will be visible on the media and will look exactly like what the name implies: salt. Using a salt leaching product such as Clearex, these salts can be controlled. Salt leaching solutions are added to fresh water in the reservoir and run through the system, plants and all. The salts will break down after a few hours and the water should be emptied. A fresh nutrient solution should be made, and you'll quickly return to vigorous growth.



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