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Stocker Horticultural & Hydroponic Supplies Ltd

Newsletter

Number 198

November 2011

XMAS HOURS

We will be shut for Christmas from 2.30 pm on Friday 23 December 2011 and re-open at 8.00 am on Wednesday 4 January 2012. Please make sure you order your supplies for the holiday period well in advance of our close down as there will be the usual freight delays associated with the holiday demand on couriers. Couriers will still pick up from us right through until Friday 23 December.

For urgent enquiries over the Christmas/New Year period please leave a message on our answer phone which we will be checking each morning or contact Wayne on his cell phone – ph 027 459 1470.



GROWER TIP

As we head into summer, this is a good time to give some thought to one of our major problems of the season ahead – **Tip Burn** (lettuce etc) and **Blossom End Rot** (tomatoes and peppers etc).

Both of the above are the result of a calcium deficiency. Having more calcium in your nutrient mix does not solve the problem. The best solution is to improve the transpiration or uptake of water in your plants. Calcium is not mobile and so affects the new growth only. So unlike many other nutrients its movement is only with the flow of water up the plant.

Reducing the amount of sunlight on your plants reduces the incidence of tip burn – use shade cloth or shade paint – available from Stockers. Don't fry your plants as the sun gets hotter.

Lower the CF of the nutrient, get it down to 2 or 3 in the hot conditions. You need some air

movement in the green house – this is the time that you really do need roof vents. Open everything up – and get the fans running. 30 °C plus is dangerous territory.

If the relative humidity is too high this is something else that will hinder transpiration. Foggers can be installed and used to great effect. The fog will evaporate fast enough and not settle on the crop – causing fungal problems. The temperature reduction being of huge benefit.

This can be to some extent a varietal problem so take care here – may be a case of simply cutting a couple of varieties during the hottest months.

Use top quality nutrient and add agronomix for great results. 5g = \$3.00, 20g = \$7.00, 100g = \$30.00, 200g = \$62.00, 250g = \$72.00, 500g = \$140.00, 1kg = \$200, these prices exclude GST.

CALCLEAR

These units are a great help in assisting plants in the uptake of calcium. This electronic device creates a magnetic field that breaks down the calcium into very small particles to enable these

to be more effectively utilised by the plant. The Calclear water ioniser is fitted to the nutrient supply line.

The Calclear computerized water conditioners are easy to install, cheap to run, and have been scientifically proven to reduce the incidence of tip burn, enhance nutrient uptake, reduce incidence of premature bolting, produce bigger plants, increase calcium levels at harvesting, prolong shelf life, reduce bitter taste component, improve

the red colour in lettuces, remove algae from roots and growing channels, reduce scale in feeder pipes. Almost sounds too good to be true, but results are proven.

Units are sized according to feed pipe sizes as follows:

MODEL	PIPES UP TO mm	\$ + GST
Hydromaster 80	80 mm	\$4630.00
Digital Industrial	60 mm	\$1821.00
Sentinel Commercial	40 mm	\$1333.00

PYRETHRUM

This summer don't overlook this powerful natural insecticide. This product has been around for years – is safe for humans (used in fly spray) and pets (used for flea control).

Trials are underway now to evaluate the use of Pyrethrum into 'integrated pest management' programs. \$232.00 + GST for 5 litres.

WANTED

1. A South Island grower is looking for 200 x 6 metre lengths of 100 x 50 gully for growing lettuce and herbs. Phone Sue on 03 437 1012 if you have any for sale.
2. A North Island grower is looking for 280 x 6 metre lengths of 100 x 50 gully for growing lettuce. Phone Ron and Ruth on 07 323 6367 if you have any for sale.

FOR SALE

2 x Thermostats with copper temperature sensor - \$25.00 each

2 x pieces of heavy duty green wind cloth in good condition. Each piece approximately 4 m x 6m - \$25.00 each.

Contact: Hugh Mills
Ph 027 558 9897
e-mail: nancywmills@gmail.com

Please pay accounts: Directly to our bank A/c 06-0317-0725026-00 (we NEED your **grower** name on the statement) or You can Mail to Stocker Hort & Hydro, 485 Peake Road, R D 1, Cambridge 3493.