

**Postal Address,  
Showroom & Delivery  
Address**  
1 Matos Segedin Drive  
Cambridge 3495  
Waikato  
New Zealand



**Phone** 07 827 9393  
**Orders** 0800 2000 60  
**Wayne** 027 459 1470  
**E-mail**  
stocker@xtra.co.nz  
**Web Site**  
www.hydroponics.co.nz

---

**Stocker Horticultural & Hydroponic Supplies (2004) Ltd**  
**Newsletter** **Number 256** **Summer 2018**

---



**Its great to see another year rolling by as we  
look forward to the challenges of 2019.**

**Xmas is the best time of year and our roads are the  
most dangerous place. Take care and be kind to each  
other.**

**Wayne and Rosemary**

### **XMAS HOURS**

We will be shut for Christmas from 12 noon on Monday 24 December 2018 and re-open at 8.00 am on Thursday 3 January 2019. During this time no one will be available to dispatch orders.

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 December.

For any enquiries over the Christmas/New Year period contact Wayne on his cell phone – ph 027 459 1470.

Please be aware that some of our suppliers will be shut for extended times over this period and that some will stop dispatching several days before they shut for Christmas.

### **SUMMER**

We are headed into hot weather and difficult growing and storage conditions for salads. Improved genetics now provide seed better suited to our hotter / high light conditions. Back in 2004 when I purchased this company – tip burn was our major problem. You know the drill:-

- Fans all going
- Vents all open
- Increase calcium nitrate
- Lower CF
- Keep humidity below 90%
- Use shade cloth
- Do what you can to increase plant spacing
- Lower nutrient temperature
- Harvest at an earlier stage to pre-empt the problems of tip burn and bolting

- Greenhouse paint La Blanche or Regisol

Now we can go through summer with a higher CF and produce a more stable plant (that will have a longer shelf life). All we need though is for somewhere along the supply chain if our product reaches ambient temperature the shelf life is reduced.

We have learned not to grow cos in January and February. Harvest early in the morning, and get the product into the chiller as soon as possible. If it is necessary to wash the product use chilled water. Deliveries must be out of chilled transport.

# APHIDS

Some properties don't have a problem with aphids – luck of the draw I guess. Use fine insect mesh if you can at ventilation areas. Clean up any weeds etc in and adjacent to the greenhouse, aphids will re-produce rapidly in these.

In your system we still advocate the use of Pirimor. Use at the rate of 25 g / 1000 litres of nutrient in your recirculating system (add the litreage in your tank to the runback). Pre dilute the product in 5 litres of water – pour this into the main nutrient tank. This needs to be left to circulate for 12 – 24 hours. Now dump and refill. The 3 day withholding period now starts. Obviously don't harvest while the product is circulating in your system. Pirimor is a tracked item and each stage of the life cycle must be recorded and as such we record the product as coming into our store it can only be sold to a person who is an approved handler, so your name and number are recorded by us (tracked). The product must be kept under lock and key. You can spray Pirimor although we don't advocate this. It is toxic to bees. It is a fast acting contact insecticide and is partially systemic.

The benefit of at least 2 systems is obvious. In the practical aspect if you have lettuce – you will usually have aphids. Especially in the hotter

months – watch your crop closely and depending how big you are – if you spot a couple of aphids – throw out that lettuce and the adjacent ones – a larger grower may find it best to get rid of a square metre of crop. Just cut your losses and move on.

We mostly deal with the green peach aphid (*Myzus Persicae*). Life cycle - summer 7 – 10 days, in cooler conditions 3 weeks.

We see Aphids in clusters of large numbers, within the crop. The trick is to observe the crop and act quickly if you spot an aphid – ants are a good sign that aphids are near. Aphids excrete 'honeydew' from the abdomen, which is food for ants. Aphids feed by sucking out plant sap. With food in short supply, winged females appear and migrate.

Contact Bioforce for biological controls i.e. the parasite aphidius coleman and predator aphidoletes aphidimiza. If using parasites or predators contact Bioforce before using any sprays.

If spraying ensure the undersides of the leaves are sprayed. If resistance is noted we need to choose an insecticide from a different chemical group.

## GROWER TIP

On the subject of gully slope. For a start – more is better. A bit like money in the bank.

Yes – on longer runs of gully i.e. 30 – 40 metres, a fall of 1.2 m is difficult to achieve. We need some slope on the ground.

So for the industry standard 6 m length 200 mm of fall is about right, and more is better. In most cases slope the ground.

There is a lot of building going on at the moment and the question of slope is always asked. You can get by on minimal slope – the problem is – what happens between the gully supports. Ponding is not what we want.

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, 1 Matos Segedin Drive, Cambridge 3495.