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Stocker Horticultural & Hydroponic Supplies Ltd

Newsletter

Number 180

May 2010

GROWER TIP SNOW BLOCKS DESERT ROAD?

During the past week I have had 3 growers complaining of symptoms relating to collar rot.

At the early stage the usual cause is simply over watering and having little or no air movement – so – as the temperatures cool down, reduce the watering of your seedlings. The media does not have to be soaking wet. Flood and drain systems can go back to once a day watering and as the weather really turns to crap maybe every second day. Also the water level can easily be adjusted by reducing the height of the tub outlet extensions. Make sure your tables are dead level to avoid deep spots. If the level is about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ way up the Rockwool – that's about right. It's a very thirsty media with excellent water retention. Clean out the tub outlet screens so the level is correct and drains quickly.

Many of our growers have overhead watering systems and are using all sorts of media, you are between the devil and the deep blue sea at this time of year.

Speaking to a grower today – he said, well Wayne, you really have to do these 3 things – vent, vent and vent.

Of course, the worst weather for a fungal attack as we all know is wet and warm – don't vent here, and you're a goner.

At the moment Jack Frost is not too far away, and things are a little different. Remember the 9 or so frosts we had in a row last winter. The advice is still the same – don't close the green house up at night. Lettuce is a cool weather crop, and fresh air is important. To help the ventilation, do all you can to maintain a good gap between your plants, especially seedlings.

Boost the growth along by calibrating both CF and pH meters. Take an independent second reading as a check that your dosing is correct. Some growers use a percentage of phosphoric acid for pH correction as mentioned in last month's newsletter. Don't put some weird snake oil in your tank – stick to something with proven results.

SGP will help and it is still on special.

At this time of year it is not the cold (especially if you have some form of nutrient heating). It is the low light levels that are slowing the growth. Give the green house a clean and make the best advantage of the available light.

A good tip is – some insulation of your pipe work and tank will help keep the nutrient temperature up.

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, PO Box 32, Tirau

Fogger Mist Sprayer ULV

Size 370 x 260 x 410mm.

Working temperature 0 - 40%

Chemical tank 4 litre mist size less than 20mm

Net weight 3.5kg

Power 1.2kw

Working humidity equal or less than 90%

Spraying speed 300 ml / min

Distance of direct spray 6Mt

Ideal for white fly, hydroponic pesticide spraying, greenhouses, etc.

Brand new \$440 + GST

Contact Bill at Chartwell Hydroponics for more detail. Ph/fax 09 411 7064, Mobile 027 420 2082.

FOR SALE

The Harvey's
at 540 Parallel Road,
Kaipaki,
CAMBRIDGE,



have a 5000 hole lettuce hydroponic system to sell. Everything is included except the chiller.

- 2 x 1200 x 2040 flood and drain tables with 2 low bay lighting units
- all dosing equipment
- 2000 litre tank, Starite 1500W pump, pipes and gullies
- sliding bench system with all ag beam

PLUS Green house 39m x 7.5m

All dismantled and ready to go.

Phone Brian and Linda
On 07 827 6447