

Superior cutting hydration using OASIS® WEDGE® Growing Media

Data Provided by Dr. Vijay Rapaka, Manager of Grower Research Smithers-Oasis



Fast hydration of the cuttings is very crucial to maintain quality of the cuttings on the propagation bench. Excessive misting during propagation can lead to nutrient leaching and promote pathogen growth.

Objective:

The objective of this experiment was to examine the hydration capacity of OASIS® Growing Medium vs. peat-lite mix.

Materials and Methods:

OASIS® WEDGE® Growing Medium and peat-lite-based soilless mix filled in WEDGE® strips were used in this study. Both the propagation media were well saturated with water. Unrooted “Freedom Red” poinsettia cuttings were received and immediately unpacked and inserted into the propagation media and let sit on bench in the greenhouse. The cuttings were neither watered nor misted after inserting them into the propagation media and during the course of the experiment. The quality of the cuttings with regard to turgidity was monitored and photographs were taken.

Results:

All the cuttings in the peat-lite mix turned flaccid in the first 3 days and were completely wilted by 6 days after initiating the experiment. Alternatively, the cuttings in the OASIS® Growing Media remained turgid at least for the first 6 days after sticking with the exception of few leaves at the bottom. After 6 days, the peat-lite mix was also wetter than OASIS® Growing Media and weighed more.

Conclusion:

The results from the cutting quality clearly demonstrate the superior and faster hydration in OASIS® Growing Media. The fact that peat-lite mix was wetter and weighed more than OASIS® Growing Media at the end of 6 days illustrates that cuttings could not utilize the available water in the peat-lite mix.

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"FREEDOM RED" POINSETTIA
RIGHT AFTER STICKING

WEDGE® vs. Peat-lite Mix



"FREEDOM RED" POINSETTIA
3 DAYS AFTER STICKING

WEDGE® vs. Peat-lite Mix



"FREEDOM RED" POINSETTIA
6 DAYS AFTER STICKING

WEDGE® vs. Peat-lite Mix

Both propagation media were initially well saturated with water.

The cuttings were neither watered nor misted after inserting into the propagation media and during the course of the experiment.

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