Performance of Aquatrols AquaGro® 2000G in a Peat-based Media
(Aquatrols Corporation, Cherry Hill, NJ)

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Objective: To evaluate several rates of Aquatrols AquaGro 2000G granular media surfactant for initial and subsequent water absorption and distribution in a peat-based growing media.

Study Details

Location:
Cherry Hill, NJ

Materials:
• Substrate
  • Peat, perlite, vermiculite media
  • Initial moisture content 24.42%
  • Dried moisture content 15-20%

Treatments:
• AquaGro 2000G at 0.50, 0.75, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 lbs/yd³ (0.29, 0.43, 0.58, 0.86, 1.16 kg/m³)
• Untreated control
• 5 replicates

Trial year:
• 1999

Evaluations:
• Water distribution – visual assessment of percent of media hydrated - at initial wetting and after rewetting
• Water retained from a measured amount of water applied (300 ml) – at initial wetting and after rewetting

Results
• Aquatrols AquaGro 2000G significantly increased water absorption and distribution. (p=0.05)
• Best results were achieved at the 1.5 and 2.0 lb/yd³ rate.

Conclusion
Aquatrols AquaGro 2000G significantly improves water absorption and distribution in peat-based media when incorporated at a rate of 1.5 lbs/yd³ (860 gm/m³) or higher.