



Happy New Year!

We don't doubt that everybody is looking forward to a less challenging year than last year!

So, let's get the year away to the best possible start and look after the issue of the moment, 'Irrigation'. It's hot and dry, you're working with a skeleton staff and managing the water delivery to your crop is critical right now!

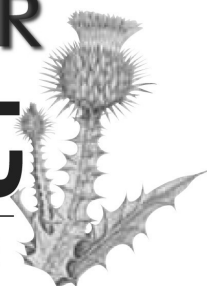
In this issue we offer some helpful information and advice on just how to navigate the complexities of getting your irrigation right. It is, however, quite complex and irrigation and crop nutrition are intrinsically linked. We don't profess to have all the answers, but hope, by raising the issues, we will get you applying thought to the challenge and finding the solutions that suit your business the best. Call, if we can help.

Cheers and good growing.

Ph: 07 823 8330
 Fax: 07 823 8331
 Mobile: 021 782250
 Email: mchort@xtra.co.nz
www.mchort.co.nz

MESSENGER McHort

McPHERSON HORTICULTURE



IRRIGATION & NUTRITION ARE INTRINSICALLY LINKED



WATER TOO FREQUENTLY, OR TOO MUCH AND YOU MIGHT DEplete YOUR NUTRIENT SUPPLY AND CREATE SOFT VULNERABLE GROWTH.

WATER TOO LITTLE, OR TOO INFREQUENTLY AND YOU CAN SERIOUSLY CHECK GROWTH, BURN PLANT ROOTS AND INVITE ROOT ROT.

SO, EXACTLY HOW MUCH OF EACH IS ENOUGH?

FOR NUTRITION, CONSIDER: PLANT VIGOUR, SALTS' TOLERANCE, LEAF MASS/BIO-MASS OF THE CROP, MARKETABLE SIZE & DURATION OF PRODUCTION TO MAKE MARKETABLE SIZE.

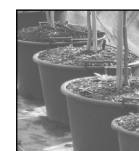
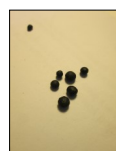
**FOR IRRIGATION, CONSIDER: APPLICATION METHOD
 -OVERHEAD, DRIPPER OR CAPILLARY.**

TIME OF DAY (COOLING THE ROOT ZONE)

POTTING MIX TYPE, FREE DRAINING OR RETENTIVE

POT TYPE (PLANTER BAGS TEND TO DRAIN SLOWLY)

**DOES THE LEAF CANOPY SHED WATER AWAY FROM THE ROOT ZONE?
 CROP MATURITY**



HERE ARE YOUR TOOLS FOR SUCCESS



THE ONE TO GROW WITH



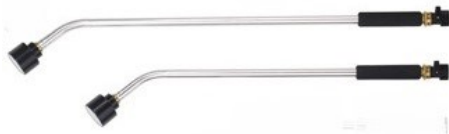
APEX Controlled release fertiliser has a release rate responsive to temperature. The term over which it releases is engineered into the polymer coating. This enables you to select the correct product longevity to match how long it will take to grow your crop to a marketable size.

The rate you apply depends on the following:
 Application method, incorporation or top dress
 Crop vigour and any specific sensitivities
 Potting mix type, retentive or free draining
 Crop maturity
 Growing pot/container size

CALL DONALD FOR POTTING MIX ADVICE



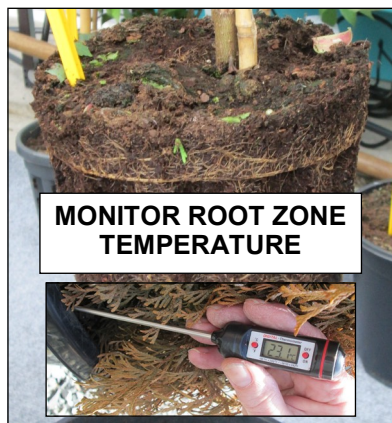
HAND WATER IF NECESSARY



Don't rely on your fixed irrigation system for uniform & accurate coverage. Check for dry spots regularly.



ROOT ZONE TEMPERATURE



Applying irrigation cools the root zone. For best root health keep temperature below 27°C. This reduces depletion of the controlled release fertiliser and reduces the risk of root injury. Damaged roots may succumb to root rot infection. Irrigating too early on a hot day may result in a very high temperature spike in mid to late afternoon. Choose when to irrigate, not just with replenishment in mind, but also root zone temperature

McHort, McPherson Horticulture
88 West Road, RD1,
OHAUPO 3881, NZ

Ph: 07 823 8330
Fax: 07 823 8331
Mobile: 021 782250
Email: mchort@extra.co.nz
www.mchort.co.nz



REDUCE, REUSE, REPAIR, RECYCLE

USING YOUR IRRIGATION RESOURCE WISELY WILL BE ESSENTIAL NOW AND IN THE FUTURE!

Here are some ideas for reducing irrigation volume:
Re-evaluate your potting mix; small changes to components can result in big water savings.

Measure the output of your irrigation system, so that you can adjust run time.

When selecting run time aim to restore container capacity plus 10%. The over-drain is vital to avoid accumulated depletion.

Avoid watering beyond CC+10%; it is wasteful!

When did you last replace a sprinkler? They do wear out!

Try to place similar maturity stock under one irrigation set. Block-up stock frequently, or install valves to shut off not in use overhead sprinklers.



DO YOU NEED HELP DECIDING HOW MUCH AND WHEN TO IRRIGATE?

Check out the following McHort 'Know How' leaflets:

- #1 IRRIGATION
- #2 TESTING INPUTS
- #3 QUALITY POTTING MIX
- #4 FERTILISER IN POTTING MIX
- #5 CROP MONITORING
- #6 ROOT ZONE TEMPERATURE

and our Tech Leaflet titles:

Method to determine Water Holding Capacity

Method to measure Restoration of Container Capacity

ALL ARE FREE TO DOWNLOAD at www.mchort.co.nz

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT

WATER WELL AND WATER TO WASTE

KNOW YOUR POTTING MIX

COMPENSATE FOR THE LEAF CANOPY DEFLECTING IRRIGATION

INSPECT YOUR CROP ROOTS FREQUENTLY

CAREFULLY CONSIDER TIME OF DAY/ NIGHT TO IRRIGATE

DON'T PARBOIL YOUR CROP ROOTS THIS SUMMER

WE WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW WE TOO MIGHT IMPROVE

information | advice | supply