

# BIOGROW slabs process for installation



## **Irrigation for expansion:**

1. Expansion can be done with clear water (or with irrigation mix with a very small concentration of fertilizer).
2. A volume of at least 120% of the slab's volume is required for a good watering of the substrate: i.e. for 100 x 20 x 8 cm (16 litres substrate), at least 19.2 litres of water will be necessary to expand those slabs.  
Ideally this volume should be sent in small shots (around 5 minutes of irrigation) spaced every 20 minutes. The most important is to send irrigation in small shots to prevent a big flow of water which would create some channels in the substrate and make difficult or impossible an homogeneous watering of the entire substrate.
3. Once this volume has been irrigated, the slab's expansion must be checked (and that all the cocopeat substrate is well hydrated within the bag). If expansion or homogeneous moisture is not enough, then please add more water in small shots again.
4. If it is satisfying, it is possible to make some drain cuts (if drain cuts are factory made, draining is now possible with longer irrigation scheme).

## **Ec Control:**

Once the expansion is satisfying and drain cuts have been made, you may irrigate normally for half a day with clear water (or with irrigation mix with a very small concentration of fertilizer) for half a day or more. You may then, check the Ec of the drain water. (If plenty of time is available you can wait after 24h allowing several cycles of drainage to check the Ec).

## **Once the Ec reading is available:**

1. If Ec level must be reduced as per grower's appreciation, please keep watering the slabs to flush it down. This will reduce Chloride concentration. At this point adding Calcium Nitrate in the feed, will reduce Sodium by taking its place. Ec in coco is mainly due to Cl<sup>-</sup> and Na<sup>+</sup> : Cl<sup>-</sup> is easily flushed out by water, while Na<sup>+</sup> is easily replaced by Ca<sup>+</sup>.
2. Ideally, once Ec level is good, it is advisable to make a chemical analysis of the drain to check the ratio of the main elements. If your crop is sensitive to some specific elements, or the available irrigation water is already hard, a chemical analysis should be done before planting.

## **In terms of concentration and Ec levels:**

As a general trend, you can consider that Ec starts to be satisfying when drain Ec is just 0.2 to 0.3 mSiemens higher than the level of water input. For example for strawberry, if your feed is at 0.7 mSiemens, once drain water comes out at 0.9 or 1 mSiemens, you can consider than cocopeat Ec is satisfying.

Please contact us for further information. [contact@bio-grow.com](mailto:contact@bio-grow.com)

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