

For Verti-Gro vertical stacking growing systems

Watering Instructions

1. **Setting the Timer:** Before you start to read the simple instructions on the back of your timer, so that you understand how to correctly set it to turn your system on at a specified time and then turn off at a specified time. (The timer should be near your electrical outlet and protected from water)
2. **When To Water & How Long?** Since you will be growing Hydroponically (meaning the nutrients come from the water-soluble nutrients solution in the tank, instead of the soil) you will be looking for consistent watering throughout the day. Set the timer to turn the Vertical Growing system on about 1 hour after sunrise, and to shut off around when the sun is setting. This is meant to be a recommendation for general circumstances, please feel free to experiment with your own situation. A program that works well for mixed plants is 1 hour on and 1 hour off during the day.
3. **The nutrient emitter should be set to just a trickle:** You will notice once you get your system assembled that the emitter looks like a sprinkler head... well, it is a sprinkler head! Put sprinkler out of your mind though, because when adjusting the flow you should **not** have it spraying like a sprinkler. Instead you will want the water (nutrient) to just trickle over the top of the adjustable emitter. It will look like it is dripping down the side of the PVC pipe. You may not think it is enough, but remember that it will be watering all day at this rate, which, if you could measure it would be close to 2 gallons per hour of drip irrigation. (The nozzles are available at Home Depot)

Plant Care Maintenance

1. **Harvesting what you eat:** This is the fun part. There is surely something special about going out and picking a fresh salad, or picking fresh herbs for cooking, or having a fresh tasty treat with strawberries. What you grow in the system is really only limited to your imagination.
2. **Pruning certain tall growing varieties:** Certain plants will tend to be tall growing, plants that would take over your system if you let them. To combat this, prune them to a manageable size. **Example:** If you let tomatoes go, you will surely have a lot of tomatoes, but this may cause other plants in your system to suffer. What we would recommend is when the tomato plant produces its first hand of fruit, prune just above that growth. This will help you to keep your growing system under control. Trim lettuce and herbs often. They grow very fast.

3. **Pruning Dead Leaves:** Make your system look nice, and your plants will love you for it. (You can even paint your pots with an elastomer paint and the tank and lid with a latex paint for plastics)
4. **Pest Management:** Be aware of what good and bad pests you may encounter in your area. Remember that there are good bugs as well as bad bugs. Informing yourself about them is your first step. We encourage and highly recommend to our customers and growers to utilize “pesticide-free” pest management practices. We would be happy to share with you our remedies and solutions should you encounter pest problems.
5. **Outside Informational Resources:** There is a lot of information that can be obtained that might make your gardening experience all the more enjoyable. We would encourage you to get with your local gardening centers and nurseries to find out what may be available to you.

Have a great time!

Note: There are a lot of natural chemical and non-chemical insect and disease control products available at your local nursery or home product centers. Diseases and insects are controllable if spotted and treated early.