

By: **Tim D. Carpenter**

## Re-Circulating Vertical Gardens

The essential ingredients for “**natural organic**” growing are included in the organic base growing media supplied with the “**organic**” vertical gardens. The “**organic base**” package includes enough growing media to mix with 2 parts perlite. For example use approximately 4 gallons of pre-mixed organic coconut fiber base with approximately 7 gallons of perlite to fill 10 **Verti-Gro** containers. Plain perlite can be added up to approximately 2 inches in the bottom of the pots for drainage. Perlite is neutral which means it is not considered organic or hydroponic. It is simply an aerator. Since “**slow release**” organic fertilizers do not supply all the elements in the right percentages there is a need to add liquid organic materials such as “**soluble seaweed extract**” fortified with organic trace minerals. After the tank is filled with water and the “**organic base**” growing media is mixed with the perlite and the containers are filled turn on the pump and let it run for one hour. There will be a natural change in color from the coconut fiber. Set the timer to feed only once per day for 15 minutes. Increase as needed during the summer or for large plants. This is different from “**hydroponics**” because all the hydroponic fertilizer is in solution and there is more perlite, hence less water retention. Extra plain water can be added by hand at any time to the stacks if required.

The addition of the organic supplement is quite straight forward and simple. There is one supplement included with the organic package. This is the “**Concentrated Fortified Seaweed Extract**”, especially formulated for **Verti-Gro**. Add 1 ounce per 5 gallons of this supplement to the nutrient tank once per month.

**Note:** Some organic fertilizers have an odor if they remain in a dilute form too long. You may add hydrogen peroxide and vinegar at the rate of 2 ounces of each per 10 gallons. Since organic materials are essentially alive they can grow and also create growth. With proper aeration organic fertilizers do not smell as much. **Verti-Gro** uses no animal waste in its organic fertilizer and growing media.

At any time you may spray your vegetable plants and any house plants with seaweed extract at the rate of 1/2 ounce per gallon of the 8% Seaweed. This is also a deterrent for some insects. For some leaf molds use one part white vinegar, one part Hydrogen Peroxide and one part water. Test spray your plant first.  
(see other instructions for natural disease and insect control)

At **Verti-Gro** we have attempted to make “**organic growing**” natural, easy and fun while producing the highest quality whole food you have ever tasted. There can be no fresher, more nutritional way to produce fresh vegetables and strawberries. However, organic growing is not an exact science so adjustments will have to be made as you grow. In the near future we will offer liquid and dry organic fertilizers and natural pesticides to help you become a successful organic grower.

# Vertical Gardening