



Hydroculture



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What is hydroculture?

Hydroculture literally means: water culture. As the name suggests, this is the cultivation of plants in water. In 1968, Nieuwkoop Europe was one of the first suppliers of hydroculture. Now, almost 50 years later, we are still a leading hydroculture specialist.

Plants grown using the hydroculture method extract their nutrients from the water. Important nutrients can thus be administered in a relatively easy and accurate way. The plants adapt themselves by developing a different type of roots that can extract sufficient oxygen and nutrients from the water. These roots are less branched and have long, fine root hair.

Plants need to be watered less often when grown using the hydroculture method. Depending on the type of plant and its location, on average it needs water once a month. A handy water level indicator tells you when and how much water the plant needs. Because hydroculture requires little intensive care, this method is often used in offices and public buildings.



50 years' experience in hydroculture



Do you see the difference?

Can you see the difference between hydroculture and a traditional potted plant? No, both plants look exactly the same. However, if you place a hydroculture plant next to a soil grown plant of the same height, you will see that the hydroculture pot is a lot smaller. The advantage of that is that there is a larger choice of suitable planters.



Hydro granules

The reddish-brown granule is a familiar association with hydro-culture. The granules are made of purified or homogenised clay. The clay is heated in large rotary kilns at 1100 °C, and that's how expanded clay granules are made.

The granules can absorb water and gradually relinquish it to the roots of the plant. Thanks to the capillary capacity of the granules, the water does not stay at the bottom of the pot out of reach of the roots.

There are many types of hydro granules on the market. Nieuwkoop Europe works only with the highest quality granules. The granules are RHP certified and guarantee an optimum start of the cultivation. The RHP label provides assurance that the substrate meets the proper quality requirements with a pH and EC neutral value.



The advantages of hydroculture

Hydroculture has a number of benefits compared with traditional potted plants:

Easy to administer the right amount of nutrients and water

An important advantage is the easy and accurate dosing of nutrients. Because the plants absorb their nutrients from the water, the nutrients can simply be added to the water. The handy water level indicator ensures optimum control of the water level, making it easy for you to give the plant the right amount of water.

Less watering required

The granules can absorb water and gradually relinquish it to the roots of the plant. On average, you only need to water the plant once a month. This means that you only need to come over twelve times a year to look after the plants.

No acidification or asphyxiation

Due to the coarse structure of the granule, the substrate remains airy and the roots can absorb sufficient oxygen. Hydro granules have a solid structure so you do not have to add new granules over time. In contrast, when using soil culture, planters have to be refilled with fresh soil as the soil slowly compacts.



Cheaper in the long term

A healthy plant

The substrate is less susceptible to pests, fungi and bacteria. This, in turn, ensures a healthy plant with less risk of plant diseases.

Cheaper in the long term

Hydroculture plants are slightly more expensive than plants grown in soil, however, they are cheaper in the long term. The plants are generally somewhat stronger and therefore have a longer lifespan.



Caring for hydroculture plants

Hydroculture plants can last for a long time, but it is important to note some care tips.

Watering

The method of watering hydroculture plants is virtually the same for all plants. Water the plant up to the optimum (OPT) mark on the water level indicator. Note: the water level indicator always has a slight delayed reaction. Gravel could be blocking the water level indicator; tap against the water level indicator if it is not responding as it should.

On average, it takes approximately 4 weeks until the water level indicator drops to the minimum (MIN) mark. When the minimum has been reached, it is wise to wait 4-5 more days before rewatering. This prevents the roots of the plant from standing in the water continuously and rotting. Afterward, give the plant water in exactly the same way as described until the water level indicator has reached the (OPT) mark.

Nutrition

During the assembly of hydroculture, place solid hydroculture feed (HD5) on the bottom of the planter. This provides a nutritious basis for the first six months. Use 4 tablespoons for large plants (>1.50m). For smaller plants (<1.50m), 2 tablespoons is sufficient. After a period of six months, the plant requires liquid feed with each watering.

Plant location

As most people are aware, the cold can cause a lot of damage to plants. Therefore you should never place plants in draughty areas. Turning the planters around from time to time will prevent the plants from growing in one direction towards the light.





Assembling hydroculture

- Requirements**
- Planter
 - Liner
 - Water level indicator
 - Hydroculture plant feed
 - Hydro granules
 - Hydroculture plant



1 Installing a liner

A liner is needed to make the planter entirely watertight. Ensure the liner is the same depth as the size of the plant's cultivation pot.

2 Place the liner to just below the edges of the planter

Ensure the liner comes to just below the edges of the planter. If your planter is too deep, fill it with a layer of hydro granules and place the liner on top of them.



3 Sprinkle solid hydroculture plant feed in the liner

Now, sprinkle solid hydroculture feed (HD5) in the liner. Use 4 table-spoons for large plants (>1.50m). For smaller plants (<1.50m), 2 table-spoons is sufficient.



4 Place the plant and a water level indicator on the bottom of the liner

Now, place the water level indicator and the plant on the bottom of the liner. Note: always leave the plant in the cultivation pot. If you do not place the plant and the water level indicator on the bottom of the liner, the water level indicator will not give an accurate reading, because a certain amount of water will always remain behind that is not measured. This can result in overwatering of the plant, which will cause the roots to rot and the plant will eventually die.



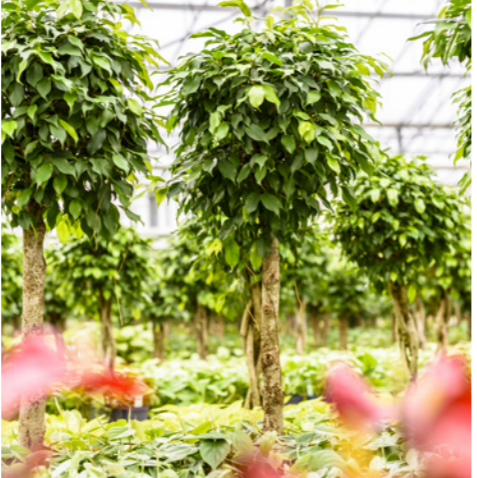
5 Top up the planter with more hydro granules

Top up the planter with more hydro granules and place a layer of decorative stones on top as required. The hydro granules could produce a white deposit after a while. Many people think this is mould, but this is not true. This white deposit contains minerals that are completely harmless to the plant. A layer of decorative stones or Vulkastrat substrate will prevent the visibility of the white deposit.



Hydroculture plants

Almost all plants are available as a hydroculture variant, whether you are looking for a beautiful Kentia palm, Sansevieria, Ficus, Spathiphyllum, Croton, Anthurium, Philodendron or a Cycas palm.



So Good For Hydro

Hydroculture has never been easier thanks to our new So Good For Hydro series. This series has been specifically designed to make hydroculture planting easier. You simply place the plant and the water level indicator in the pot, and that's it. In less than a minute you have an amazing plant in your interior.



- Quick & easy concept
- Fully watertight
- Approximately 2 weeks' water capacity
- Handmade ceramics
- Anti-scratch felt protects the furniture against scratches



Specifically designed for hydroculture



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