

Grow Program: Hydrangea Protocol

The Nature's Source Difference: Nature's Source plant foods are high efficiency nutrition formulated with oilseed extract, an all-natural and renewable source of plant nutrition. The low salt formulations enhance nutrient uptake by the plant.

Feeding Recommendations

Feed is based on weather, watering frequency and active growth of the plant.

PROPAGATION:

Water in the cuttings at a rate of 250 ppm of Nature's Source 10-4-5, Injector setting of 1:500, every other watering. Remember you do not have to water to leach. At this rate water enough to get moisture into $\frac{3}{4}$ of the soil volume to encourage wicking to the bottom of the cell providing faster air porosity around the roots. During winter months, if due to weather, plants do not need to be watered at least 3 times a week, you can replace the feed energy for transplanting.

The addition of Plant Probiotic at sticking will also provide an improved root zone for disease resistance and enhance nutrient uptake. We recommend application at full rate at the time of sticking and a second application at a half rate in early Spring.

Keep in mind this application can be in combination with a fungicide or pesticide spray. 64 oz. per 100 gallons foliar feeds at 600 ppm N

If the 64 oz. rate is not needed for height control, then apply the 32 oz. per 100 gallons rate for a foliar feed of 300 ppm N. This will also enhance the uptake of the chemical being sprayed and reduce or prevent the spotting on leaves.

NATURE'S SOURCE PLANT PROBIOTIC RATE:

FOLIAR APPLICATION/SOIL DRENCH**:*

Tank Mix: Dissolve 1/2 lb. of Plant Probiotic and 32 oz. of Nature's Source 10-4-5 in 100 gallons of water. Spray on foliage and growing media.

Injector Application: Stock tank mix with Nature's Source 10-4-5, with Injector set on 1:100. Dissolve 1/2 lb. of Plant Probiotic and 32 oz. of Nature's Source 10-4-5 per gallon of stock tank solution. *Use all the day it is mixed.*

TRANSPLANTING LINERS: Water in the new liners with Nature's Source 10-4-5 at the rate of 250 ppm N. These plants should then be fed 2 times a week at 250-300 ppm N until well established. The microbes in the liners will inoculate the new media and the Nature's Source plant food will continue to grow those microbes. As the temperatures heat up and stress gets greater, a half rate of Plant Probiotic or Plant Biotik may be applied to add more root protection. As the plants grow, they may need to be fed 3 times per week. Apply the 500 - 600 ppm N foliar application if needed during the Summer and Fall bulking period. During the Winter months, an occasional once a week foliar application can be applied if plants are not going dormant.

As soon as the plants are ready to break dormancy in the Spring, start back on the 2-3 times a week feed program at the 250 ppm rate. Remember only water to the needs of the plant, not to run-off.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPRAY FOR TONE AND LATERAL BRANCHING: Apply Nature's Source Foliar Essentials at a rate of 64 oz. per 100 gallon spray tank. This may also be combined with your current spray program depending on your program. Do not tank mix with heavy metals such as copper and always do a jar test before mixing with another chemical.

To reduce or eliminate use of PGR's, apply the 500 - 600 ppm as frequently as needed, usually once a week, but only as a foliar application. Keep in mind this application can be in combination with a fungicide or pesticide spray at a rate of 32 oz. per 100 gallon. If height and lateral branching is needed, then apply the rate of 64 oz. per 100 gallon, again only as a foliar feed not a drench. This will also enhance the uptake of the chemical being sprayed and reduce or prevent the spotting on leaves.

If you are using CRF's in your current program, gradually reduce the amount of CRF's that are incorporated into your growing media. In most cases we start at 25% less CRF.

Many growers reduce by 50% and some have completely eliminated the use of CRF, using the same feed schedule as above.

Due to the elimination of salt based fertilizers and the use of beneficial microbes, your Nature's Source feed program will store more efficiently in the plant, with optimum storage in the cell walls as well as in the beneficial microbes. You will see improved shipping quality and extended shelf-life at retail.

Rates for field production ... Depends on feed options.

When moved to the field, apply Plant Probiotic at a rate of 8 oz. per 100 gallons to cover an area of 20,000 sq. ft. of production along with 32 oz. of Nature's Source 10-4-5.

Overhead Fertigation: Nature's Source 10-4-5 should be applied once a week for a shortened period of time through the overhead, long enough to cover the foliage and get some drip into the soil volume, after the plants have been watered. The rate is 600 ppm N a setting of 1:200 on the injector.

Tank Spraying: Spray Nature's Source 10-4-5 at a rate of 64 oz. per 100 gallons as a weekly spray, mixed with your other spray programs. (Once jar test is done to determine compatibility.)

DRIP IRRIGATION:

Constant Feed: Apply Nature's Source 10-4-5 at 250 ppm N, an Injector setting of 1:500 and apply the 600 ppm as needed as a foliar spray for lateral branching and compaction; or you can again apply Foliar Essentials as a foliar application at a rate of 4 gallons per acre.

Occasional Feed: Apply Nature's Source 10-4-5 at 400 ppm N twice a week with the same foliar spray as recommended on Constant feed. Plant Probiotic only needs to be applied every 2-3 months depending on the time of year and frequency of chemical drenches.

Referenced Products

Nature's Source® Nursery & Landscape Special Plant Food 10-4-5
Nature's Source® Foliar Essentials BioNutrition™ Spray
Nature's Source® Plant Probiotic

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