



Horticultural
Development
Company

New Project

HNS 182

Developing optimum irrigation guidelines for peat, reduced peat and peat-free substrates.

Project Number: HNS 182

Title: Developing optimum irrigation guidelines for peat, reduced peat and peat-free substrates.

Start and end dates: 01 April 2010 to 31 March 2013

Project Leader: Dr Olga M. Grant

Project Co-ordinator: Bill Godfrey, Alastair Hazell, Malcolm Dick, John Adlam, Tim Briercliffe, Martin Emmett (Latter TBC).

Location: East Malling Water Centre

Background and project objectives: There are currently no clear guidelines for irrigation of growing media. This lack of guidance frequently leads to over watering to occur, which is both wasteful of this increasingly precious resource and often leads to a reduction in plant quality. The pressure to switch to 'peat alternatives', with their relatively poor water-holding capacity, has highlighted the need for clear guidelines to be developed for range of growing media likely to be commonly used by HNS in the future.

In this project, optimal irrigation management of HNS growing media (including peat-reduced, and peat-free growing media) with various irrigation systems will be determined and compared with industry standard substrates. The application of different scheduling systems for will also be optimised.

Importantly, clear guidelines will be provided as to how growers can optimise their irrigation management, whether growing HNS in industry standard, reduced peat, or peat-free substrates. Improved irrigation management and reduced nutrient leaching will help growers save money, comply with legislation, optimise plant performance and gain confidence in growing HNS in peat alternatives.

Further information

Email the HDC office (hdc@hdc.org.uk), quoting your HDC number, alternatively contact the HDC at the address below.

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