

Mini-Farm Grow Box Getting Started User Guide



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Getting Started User Guide

FOOD RISING GROW BOX ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS (Starter Kits)

Congratulations on receiving your Food Rising Mini-Farm Grow Box! My name is Mike Adams, and I developed this system based on the Non-Circulating Hydroponics principles taught by Prof. B. Kratky at the Univ. of Hawaii. Here's a straightforward guide for assembling your grow box. Free videos also demonstrate the full assembly if you'd prefer to watch a video guide. You can find those videos at www.FoodRising.org. You do not need any tools to assemble this system. :-) http://www.foodrising.org/Mini-Farm-Grow-Box-full-Assembly-Instructions.html

IDENTIFY THE PARTS:

This is everything you need to get started.



Grow bin (large container bin)



Grow lid (with precision-cut holes in the lid)



pail with lid (the water reservoir)



Coconut coir grow media



1/4" poly micro tubing (5 ft.) drip line



Net pots (2, 4, 6 or 9 depending on your kit)



Tube shutoff clamp



Commercial float valve



3D printed float valve (Choose this option for an additional charge)



Food: 1 lb. of a specific formula (such as lettuce) and 1 lb. of CalMag (which all plants need)

ASSEMBLE THE SYSTEM:

1) Install the float valve in the side wall of the grow bin, where a hole is pre-drilled for your convenience. You may choose to install either the commercial float valve, or the 3D printed float valve. They both operate on the same principles. Check FoodRising.org for a detailed article with photos that show you how to assemble the 3D printed float valve. (We usually ship them already pre-assembled.)

2) Attach the 1/4" drip line to the external nozzle of the float valve. This provides a water source that feeds the grow bin.

3) With a pair of scissors held at a 45-degree angle (or so), cut the other end of the 1/4" drip line, creating an angled end that can be easily inserted into the pre-drilled hole in the 3.5 gallon pail.

4) Insert the angled end of the 1/4" drip line into the pre-drilled hole of the water reservoir, allowing the tubing to extend approximately 2 inches into the reservoir. (The actual insertion depth is not very important.)

5) Unwrap the plastic of the coconut coir grow media. Place the coconut coir into a separate container or bin (such as a small pail or bucket) and add a few inches of water to the bottom of the container until the coconut coir expands and loosens. This will take 15 - 20 minutes for the expansion. Once it is fully expanded, you can loosen it by hand to make loose coconut coir media. This is the media which will host your garden seeds.

6) Fill your net pots with coconut coir media. Compress it slightly, but not vigorously. The coconut coir should be filled all the way to the top of the net pots, but should not be too tightly compressed. (Roots need loose media to grow well.)

7) Place the net pots containing coconut coir into the holes of the grow box lid. They should fit snugly. Place the lid to the side for now.

TEST THE WATER FLOW:

The Mini-Farm Grow Box is a self-watering system. You never need to add water or nutrients to the grow bin itself. Instead, you add water and nutrients to the water reservoir (the 3.5 gallon pail). If you wish, you can use a larger pail or other container to create a larger water reservoir. One reservoir can feed water and nutrients to 10+ grow bins! Before planting seeds, it is important to test the gravity flow of automatic watering function of the grow box:

1) Confirm that you have the float valve installed with the correct orientation inside the grow bin. The float should actuate vertically (up and down) when you gently lift it with your hand. This simulates the rising of the float as the water level rises in the grow box.

2) Confirm you have the 1/4" drip line connected securely to the float valve nozzle, with the other end securely inside the water reservoir (white pail).

3) Normally you will want to position the water reservoir a few inches higher than the level of the float valve of your grow box. This allows the water to gravity flow down to the level of the float valve. To accomplish this, you may place a 4" brick or a similar-sized object underneath the water reservoir (white pail).

4) Fill the white pail completely with water. You should now observe a slow trickle of water entering the grow box through the tiny hole in the center of the float valve. This is the desired flow you want to see.

5) Check for leaks on both ends of the 1/4" drip line. You may see small, slow drips if either end is not securely attached. If you notice small leaks, secure the drip line more securely. If you notice a leak on the 3D printed Float Valve Receiver nozzle, check the nozzle for uniformity. Some nozzles print with "hanging filament" that must be removed with a fingernail clipper or other small tool. (3D printing is not yet an exact science. Some parts still have small artifacts of the melted filament printing process.)

TIP: You may also use the "compression fitting" to further secure the 1/4" drip line onto the external nozzle of the Float Valve Receiver. Simply disconnect the 1/4" drip line from the nozzle, slide the compression fitting over the drip line, reattach the drip line to the nozzle, then slide the compression fitting over the drip line where it attaches to the nozzle. It should be a very snug fit and may be slightly difficult to push on.

TIP: If you decide to drill your own hole for a larger water reservoir, use a drill bit with a diameter of 15/64". This is a common size in many drill bit sets.

6) Allow the water to fill the grow bin until the float valve rises sufficiently to block the incoming water flow. At this point, you should have approximately 2 or 3 inches of water in the bottom of the grow bin, and a much higher water level in your water reservoir. Allow this state to remain for a few hours to make sure your float valve really is blocking off the incoming water. If the water level does not rise higher in the grow bin, then you have confirmed the float valve is working to block the incoming water, just as it is designed to do.

TIP: If you place your water reservoir too high, it will increase the gravity pressure of the water and may cause excess water to be pushed into your grow bin. Do not raise the water reservoir higher than approximately 6" off the level surface where your grow bin is also placed.

7) Now it's time to test the ability of the grow bin to RETAIN water when it is nearly full. Please fill the grow bin to about 3" below the top of the bin and observe the outside of the float valve. Ideally, you will not see any water leaking out of the float valve. This indicates the float valve is now blocking the water that's inside the grow box from escaping out EVEN WHEN THE GROW BIN IS FULL OF WATER.



If you are using 3D printed parts, you may notice a slow drip of water escaping through the threads of the Float Valve Receiver. The solution for this is to wrap the Float Valve Receiver threads with "thread tape." This is commonly available at hardware stores and is used for plumbing pipe connections. The reason this is sometimes needed is because of the imprecision of 3D printing: today's technology cannot yet print ultra-precise threads which are 100% water tight by themselves. The thread tape "fills in the microscopic gaps" of the threads, creating a watertight connection.

8) You have now confirmed the full function of the grow system! If you used a high quality water source to begin with, you may now add nutrients directly to the water in the grow bin (only needed once, at the beginning of each new "crop") and also to the water reservoir.

TIP: Acquire a TDS meter (about \$15 on Amazon.com) to test your water for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Electrical Conductivity (EC).

TIP: As a rule of thumb, you will add plant nutrients and CalMag formulas in about a 1:1 ratio to the water, aiming for a TDS number of approximately 1200 - 1500. For more detailed instructions, see FoodRising.org for a comprehensive guide on hydroponic nutrients for various plants.

9) You may now place the lid on the grow bin, making sure the bottom half inch or so of each net pot is immersed in the water being held in the grow bin. This assures water reaches the coconut coir and allows your seeds to sprout. Over time, as the water level drops in the grow bin, your plants will grow roots to follow the water down, extending to the bottom of the grow bin where fresh water and nutrients are fed through the float valve.

10) You may now plant your favorite seeds! Make sure the system has adequate sunlight and watch Mother Nature perform its food miracles!

TO LEARN MORE:

Visit <u>FoodRising.org</u> for videos, how-to articles and additional guides on plant nutrition. You may also freely download 3D printable parts from the <u>FoodRising.org</u> website. Enjoy! Have a suggestion on how we can improve the system? Email us at <u>csr@foodrising.org</u>

Plant and Lid Selection Guide

Plant	Preferred Lid		Sprout/Germination Time	
Salad Pack				
Arugula	9 holes	40°-55°	5-7 days	
Cress	9 holes	55°-75°	2-7 days	
Chicory	9 holes	45°-85°	7-10 days	
Corn Salad	9 holes	50°-70°	7-14 days	
Endive	9 holes	35°-85°	5-7 days	
Lettuce	9 holes	40°-85°	7-14 days	
Parsley	9 holes	70°	21 days	
Tomato Pack				
Tomatoes	2 holes	60°-95°	6-12 days	

Plant and Lid Selection Guide - Continued

Plant	Preferred Lid		Sprout/Germination Time			
	Family Kitchen Herb Pack					
Italian Basil	6 holes	50°-95°	5 days			
Chives	6 holes	45°-95°	7-21 days			
Cilantro	4 holes	60°	10 days			
Dill	6 holes	60°-70°	21-25 days			
Fennel	2, 4, 6 holes	50°-70°	12-18 days			
Marjoram	2, 4, 6 holes	70°	8-14 days			
Oregano	2, 4, 6 holes	70°	8-14 days			
Parsley	6 holes	70°	21 days			
Rosemary	2, 4, 6 holes	65°-85°	10-14 days			
Sage	2, 4, 6 holes	60°-75°	21 days			
Tarragon	2, 4, 6 holes	65°-85°	4-14 days			
Thyme	2, 4, 6 holes	70°	21-28 days			

Plant and Lid Selection Guide - Continued

Plant	Preferred Lid		Sprout/Germination Time	
Leafy Greens Pack				
Amaranth	4 holes	60°-90°	3-4 days	
Broccoli Raab	2 holes	45°-85°	4-7 days	
Cabbage	2 holes	45°-85°	4-7 days	
Collards	4 holes	40°-85°	4-7 days	
Kale	4 holes	45°-85°	4-7 days	
Kohlrabi	4 holes	45°-85°	4-7 days	
Leek	4 holes	45°-95°	4-7 days	
Mustard Greens	6, 9 holes	45°-85°	4-7 days	
Spinach	6, 9 holes	45°-75°	6-10 days	
Chard	6, 9 holes	40°-95°	5-7 days	
Cucumbers	2 holes	60°-105°	3-10 days	
Strawberries	4 holes	65°-75°	2-8 weeks	
Peppers	2 holes	70°-90°	7-10 days	

Introduction to Plant Nutrients

Welcome to the Plant Nutrition Guide for the Food Rising Mini-Farm Grow Box.

My name is Mike Adams, and I developed this system based on the Non-Circulating Hydroponics principles taught by Prof. B. Kratky at the Univ. of Hawaii.

I'm also the lab director at a Forensic Food Lab where I test food, supplements and water for heavy metal contaminants such as lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic. This lab runs an Agilent 7700X ICP-MS instrument which can detect elements with precision of 1 part per billion. (That's 1/1000th of 1 part per million!)

In 2014, I conducted exhausted ICP-MS testing of off-the-shelf plant nutrition formulas purchased at common retail stores, and I found that many of them were heavily contaminated with lead and cadmium. This concerned me greatly, as I did not want to grow my food in a nutrient formula containing alarming concentrations of toxic heavy metals. For the record, lead causes mental retardation and cadmium causes cardiovascular problems and skin disorders.

Ultimately, I realized I would have to develop my own nutrient formulas using ultra-clean ingredients from the cleanest sources in the world. This led to several months of testing raw material samples from many different countries, including Israel, Canada, Denmark, the United States, Chile and many others.

By testing these raw materials using ICP-MS instrumentation, I was able to identify the cleanest sources of plant nutrient materials available in the world today. I then combined these raw materials to create Ultra-Clean Super Plant Food formulas which are extraordinarily low in toxic elements while boasting much higher levels of beneficial nutrients that nearly all people need in higher concentrations (such as zinc, which boosts immune function, and organic selenium, which is an anti-cancer mineral).

We specifically avoided using any raw materials from China, due to China's worsening pollution and contamination problems.

The result is the world's cleanest plant nutrient formulas for hydroponics. By using these formulas correctly, you can grow the world's most nutrient-rich plants while also avoiding toxic heavy metals that can damage your health.

The food you grow using these formulas will have far higher concentrations of beneficial minerals than nearly all store-bought produce. Even growing something as simple as lettuce can produce mineral-rich foods that can substantially support and enhance your overall health by providing your body with the nutrients that are typically missing in most other foods.

Everything you grow in these UltraClean Super Plant Food nutrients will be healthier, more mineral rich and cleaner than plants grown in lower grade nutrients. You will also discover that this enhances the pest resistance, disease resistance and drought resistance of the plants you're growing! Healthy minerals, after all, boost the health of not just humans but also the food plants that humans consume. (Mineral deficiencies lead to disease in all living systems, including plants, animals and humans.)

SUPER SIMPLE PLANT NUTRIENT INSTRUCTIONS

<u>UltraClean Super Plant Food mixes</u> come as follows:

(https://www.healthrangerstore.com/collections/ultraclean-plant-food)

1. The plant mix, such as a "lettuce" formula. This plant mix contains the micro nutrients (trace minerals), potassium nitrate, monopotassium phosphate and other key nutrients needed by your plant.

2. The CalMag mix. This contains just three nutrients: Calcium Nitrate, Magnesium Nitrate and Iron EDTA.

Rule of thumb: For every gallon of water you use in the system, you will add just slightly under 1 teaspoon of plant mix + 1 teaspoon of CalMag.

This rule of thumb will vary significantly if you are in a very hot, dry climate, in which case you will need to add far more water than nutrients as your plants mature, due to the fact that your plants are transpiring a lot of water but not using a proportionate quantity of nutrients.

This is why you need a TDS meter to monitor the ppm (parts per million) of your nutrients. Over time, you will gain enough experience to almost never need the TDS meter, but for first-time growers, it is a very valuable tool.

Recommended TDS meter at Amazon.com (about \$10): http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00M19UR4W

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 3.5 GALLON WATER RESERVOIR:

For the 3.5 gallon water reservoir (white pail), add water and nutrients as follows:

- •Fill the pail 1/2 full with water.
- •Add 3 level teaspoons of plant mix. Stir until dissolved.
- •Add 3 levels teaspoons of CalMag mix. Stir until dissolved.
- •Fill the remainder of the pail all the way full.

This will produce a water + nutrient mix with approximately 1200ppm of nutrients. A TDS tester may show a higher number because it is measuring the 1200ppm of the nutrients PLUS the original ppm of your water, added together.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE START OF THE GROW BOX:

For the grow box bin, you will nearly fill it with water when you first start new seeds. (After that, the automatic float valve will provide self-water function.) Follow these instructions for most seedlings:

- •Fill the bin 1/2 full with water.
- •Add 5 level teaspoons of plant mix. Stir until dissolved.
- •Add 5 levels teaspoons of CalMag mix. Stir until dissolved.
- •Fill the remainder of the bin until the water level is covering the bottom third of the net pots
- when the grow box lid is attached. (The net pots must be partially submersed in water in order
- to wick water to the plant seeds and early roots.)

This will produce a water + nutrient mix with approximately 1200ppm of nutrients. A TDS tester may show a higher number because it is measuring the 1200ppm of the nutrients PLUS the original ppm of your water, added together.

TESTING AND ADJUSTING YOUR WATER PH LEVEL

It's important to also measure and adjust the pH level of your water. Fortunately, it's very simple to do: just acquire pH test strips (paper strips) from Amazon.com or any hydroponics supplier. Some people prefer to use liquid pH testing drops, which are also readily available and very affordable. Most plants will survive pH ranges from 5.5 - 7.5, but you'll get better results if you narrow the pH range to fit the plants you're growing.

Here's a list of pH ranges, found on SimplyHydro.com.

Note that this is the pH *after* you add plant nutrients.

Beans 6.0-6.5 Broccoli 6.0-6.5 Cabbage 6.5-7.5 Cantaloupe 6.5-6.8 Carrots 5.8-6.4 Chives 6.0-6.5 Cucumbers 5.8-6.0 Garlic 6.0-6.5 Lettuce 6.0-6.5 Onions 6.5-7.0 Peas 6.0-6.8 Pumpkin 5.0-6.5 Radish 6.0-7.0 Strawberries 5.5-6.5

Here's how to adjust the pH to achieve the proper range:

•If your pH is too low, it's too ACIDIC, and you need to add baking soda to make it more alkaline (to raise the pH level). Simply stir in a teaspoon of baking soda, one at a time, until you reach the desired pH.

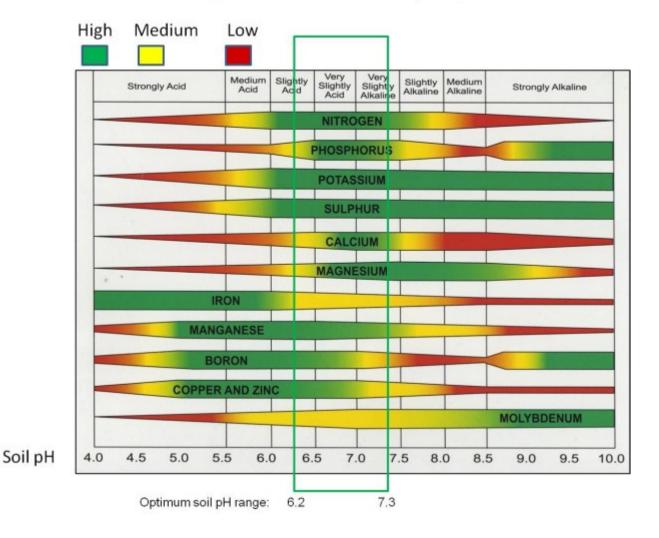
•If your pH is too high, it's too ALKALINE, and you need to add white vinegar to make it more acidic (to lower the pH level). Simply stir in a teaspoon of white vinegar, one at a time, until you reach the desired pH.

Recommended pH testing products (very affordable)

<u>General Hydroponics PH Test Indicator, 8-Ounce</u> http://www.amazon.com/General-Hydroponics-Test-Indicator-8-Ounce/dp/B003Y3F34I

Micro Essential Labs pHydrion Urine and Saliva ph test paper, 15 ft roll with dispenser and chart, ph range 5.5-8.0 http://www.amazon.com/Essential-pHydrion-Saliva-dispenser-5-5-8-0/dp/B0001SR4NM

How soil pH affects availability of plant nutrients



UNDERSTANDING PLANT NUTRIENT BASICS:

All plants share common needs for specific nutrients and minerals. The three most common nutrients used in conventional agriculture are:

N = Nitrogen. This is the "fuel" that plants use as an energy source.

P = Phosphorous. This minerals supports crucial plant physiology functions that keep it alive.

K = Potassium. Without potassium plants could not transport water or even succeed with photosynthesis (converting sunlight into plant energy).

In conventional farming, these three nutrients are added to crops in large quantities. But trace minerals are almost never added: molybdenum, boron, chromium, zinc, selenium and so on. As a result, most conventional crops utterly lack the trace minerals which are also crucial for plant health and human health.

Growing healthy plants requires more than just N, P and K. True plant health comes from a full spectrum of nutrients, which includes trace minerals or "micro minerals" as they are sometimes called in hydroponics.

FACT: The ocean is full of trace minerals. Sea water contains at least 92 elements. Every element has a different function in human physiology. Some farmers use sea water concentrates on their crops to boost plant health from the trace minerals.

PLANTS "EAT" MOLECULES

Many of the nutritional molecules consumed by plants provide more than one element. A chemical compound consists of chains of atoms bonded together through principles of chemistry such as "covalent bonding." For example, the chemical compound "potassium nitrate" combines potassium and nitrogen into a complex molecule.

Monopotassium Phosphate, similarly, is a simple combination of potassium and phosphate. The "mono" simple means "one." This refers to the ratio of atoms in the chemical structure of the molecule.

Although this is a simplified explanation, when plant roots come into contact with these molecules, they "eat" them by assimilating the elements that the molecules are made of. Plants "eat" potassium nitrate, for example, to assimilate both the potassium and the nitrogen -- nutrients they need to survive and grow.

Plants extract carbon from the air to create physical structures such as leaves, stems and roots. They quite literally "grab" carbon molecules out of the air and convert them into physical objects that allow the plant to grow. This is why plants are known to consume carbon dioxide. (CO2)

PLANT NUTRIENT MIXES

UltraClean Super Plant Food mixes come as follows:

1. The plant mix, such as a "lettuce" formula. This plant mix contains the micro nutrients (trace minerals), potassium nitrate, monopotassium phosphate and other key nutrients needed by your plant.

2. The CalMag mix. This contains just three nutrients: Calcium Nitrate, Magnesium Nitrate and Iron EDTA.

NOTE: All the nutrients in UltraClean Super Plant Food are water soluble. They are designed, in other words, to almost completely dissolve in water and stay in solution. After adding them to a water reservoir, you will need to vigorously stir the water to dissolve the nutrients. Over time, you may notice a very small amount of un-dissolved nutrients (about 1% of the total nutrient mass) in the bottom of the reservoir pail. This is normal and not a concern.

As a rule of thumb, you will typically use these formulas together in a 1:1 ratio for more common plants. However, the ratios and concentrations of these nutrients varies considerably when growing plants that bloom (such as strawberries or tomatoes). "Grow" and "bloom" cycles of plants have different nutrient needs, which we will cover later.

Why is the CalMag separate from the general plant mix? Calcium and magnesium often need to be added in ratios other than 1:1. Keeping the nutrient mixes separated allows you to control the ratios that you add to the nutrients.

TIP: If you have multiple grow boxes connected to a single water reservoir, make sure you are growing all the same type of plants. For example, if you are feeding your water reservoir lettuce mix plant nutrients, you want to make sure all the grow boxes connected to that water reservoir are growing lettuce, not something different such as green peppers.

TIP: Lettuce is the easiest crop to grow, and it's the crop we recommend you begin with. It's also the most forgiving on nutrient concentrations and ratios.

HOW TO MIX THE NUTRIENTS FOR SEEDLINGS

Target TDS = 1200 + your original water source

Step 1) Measure the TDS of your source water. Using a TDS meter, find out the ppm (which means the parts per million of Total Dissolve Solids) in your source water. A lower number is better, indicating "cleaner" water.

Step 2) Add 1200 to that number. This gives you a "target" ppm of TDS in your final water.

Step 3) Add dry nutrients in small quantities in a 1:1 ratio of the plant formula and the CalMag formula, until the ppm of your water reaches the target ppm. (Make sure you vigorously stir the water as you are doing this to fully dissolve the nutrients.)

HOW TO MIX NUTRIENTS FOR MATURE PLANTS

Target TDS = 1500 + your original water source

Mature plants benefit from a higher nutrient concentration in the water. Use the same method described above, but aim for 1500 ppm instead of 1200.

Advanced Plant Nutrient Information



The following plant nutrition guide offers detailed guidance on nutrient concentrations and pH levels for different types of plants as well as their growth stages.

The plant nutrient recommendations below are based on adding nutrients to 10 gallons of water. Divide the recommendations by 3 if you are using a 3.5 gallon pail (water reservoir) which ships with the systems.

Always test the ppm of your water + nutrient solutions to keep them within a proper range. Typically, starting plants (sprouting seeds, or growing very young starts) should use a lower concentration of nutrients such as 1200 ppm. Mature plants usually require higher concentrations, around 1500 - 1600 ppm.

REVIEW:

ppm = parts per million. You can assess the parts per million of the nutrients in your water by using a low-cost TDS meter purchased for about \$10 - \$15 from Amazon.com.

pH = Acid/Alkaline level. Low pH is more acidic. High pH is more alkaline. Most plants prefer a pH between 6.0 and 7.0, but they can usually survive in a range of 5.5 to 7.5.

Units Conversion:

For the CalMag Plant Food, 1 tablespoon = 14 grams For all plant fertilizer formulas (Lettuce, Strawberry, etc.), 1 tablespoon = 18 grams

LETTUCE:

pH target = 6.4 - 6.7 during growth stage / 6.0 - 6.5 during seeding stages

Lettuce Plant Food 8-15-36:

• Use 45 grams per 10 gallons of water during all stages of plant growth

CalMag Plant Food:

- Use 30 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 40 grams per 10 gallons of water during bolting stage

TOMATO:

pH target = 6.4 - 6.6 during growth stage / 6.1 - 6.3 during blooming (flowering) stage

Tomato Fertilizer 4-18-38:

• Use 45 grams per 10 gallons of water during all stages of plant growth

CalMag Plant Food:

- Use 30 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 40 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming stage

Potassium Nitrate:

 You may optionally add 2 grams per 10 gallons of water during the blooming stage to boost nitrogen levels

STRAWBERRIES:

pH target = 6.5 - 6.8 during all stages of plant life

Strawberry Fertilizer 8-12-32:

- Use 11 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 17 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming stage

CalMag Plant Food:

- Use 12 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 23 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming stage

CUCUMBER:

pH target = 6.4 - 6.7 during all stages of plant life

Cucumber Fertilizer 8-16-36:

• Use 45 grams per 10 gallons of water during all stages of plant growth

CalMag Plant Food:

- Use 30 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 40 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming

Calcium Nitrate:

• You may optionally add 10 grams per 10 gallons of water during the blooming stage

PEPPERS:

pH target = 6.2 - 6.5 during growth stage / 5.8 - 6.2 during blooming stage

Pepper and Herb Fertilizer 11-11-40:

• Use 23 grams per 10 gallons of water during all stages

CalMag Plant Food:

- Use 30 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 40 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming stage

HERBS:

pH target = 6.2 - 6.5 during growth stage / 5.8 - 6.2 during blooming stage

Pepper and Herb Fertilizer 11-11-40:

• Use 11 grams per 10 gallons of water during all stages

CalMag Plant Food::

- Use 14 grams per 10 gallons of water during growth stage
- Use 23 grams per 10 gallons of water during blooming stage

Additional Nitrogen::

• Recommended to add nitrogen for herbs. Can use either calcium nitrate or potassium nitrate at around 2 grams per 10 gallons of water.