ROCKET FOAM

As ROCKET FOAM behaves as an inert material, it needs to be given a complete feed solution at the time of wetting up so that all essential nutrients are within the substrate to aid development of the young plants. For small trial plots, where nutrient solution will also need to be applied to plants in peat or coir based substrates, it will not generally be a problem to wet up ROCKET FOAM with the same feed solution.

- The nutrient solution for ROCKET FOAM is thought to be midway between that of coir and peat, so recipes designed for either substrate should be OK.

- Due to the slight differences in the wetting up procedure, compared to peat or coir, it is advisable to have the ROCKET bags on a separate irrigation valve if possible.

- Lay the bags down on a flat and even surface with the Fytocell logo upright, so you can read it, the breather holes in the bags will then be on the top.

- The drippers should be placed evenly across the bag, with at least 3x.5 gallon/hour droppers or 4x1.4 gallon/hour dripper per 6 gallon Fytocell bag.

- At this stage do NOT make drainage slits in the base of the bags. Saturate the flake bags with a starter feed solution at an EC of 1.4 mS and pH of 5.8. The amount of solution required to saturate the bag equates to around 70 % of the bag volume, e.g. if the flake bag volume is approx. 6 gallons then at least 5 gallons of feed solution must be given slowly & evenly over a 48-hour period before planting.

- Once the bags have been saturated for at least 48 hours, make small slits in the bottom to allow free drainage of excess solution. (One small slit in each of the lowest bottom corners, should be adequate).

- Add a further 5 gallon of starter feed solution through the drippers to thoroughly flush the bags and allow to drain freely.

- Check that the pH and EC of the drain water coming out of the bags falls within the recommended levels before planting. The pH should be between 5.5-0.5 and the conductivity (EC) between 1.2-1.5 mS.

- Place the plants in the planting holes and ensure that the ROCKET flakes are firmed around the roots allowing a good substrate / root contact

- Treat the plants in ROCKET FOAM as for other substrates, and during the life of the crop, give frequent drip irrigations relating to the transpiration of the plants, with at least an average of 10 to 30% drain.

- Note: Peat based substrates can become too wet if over watered resulting in poor root growth or even root death "root rot".
  In contrast, when ROCKET FOAM is fully saturated it will hold around 70% by volume as water, but there will always be a minimum of 30% by volume as air, providing an ideal medium for healthy and vigorous root growth.

If bag drainage is not impeded, it is very difficult to over water Fytocell.