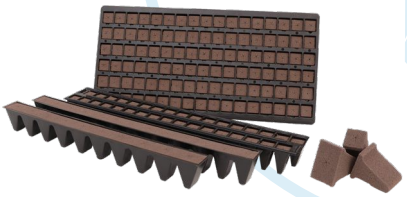
PRODUCT USAGE

OASIS® STRIP / TRAY

Wedge®

OASIS® Wedge® propagation substrate is engineered for superior cutting hydration and fast, uniform rooting. Clean and consistent, OASIS® Wedge® keeps water freely available for easy uptake. This reduces the need for excessive misting, minimizes nutrient leaching and disease pressure, and speeds establishment — even with difficult-to-root plants prone to disease.



Instructions for Propagation

1. Unboxing

To unbox OASIS® Wedge® single or double strips, gently pull a few strips from a corner of the box in an upward motion. Once the first few strips are removed, the remaining strips are easily extracted. For preloaded OASIS® Wedge® trays, gently remove trays one at a time.



2. Preparation and Initial Watering/Saturation

Do not stick cuttings before saturating the substrate. Although OASIS® Wedge® ships with a slight starter charge, a complete nutrient solution such as OASIS® 16-4-17 water-soluble fertilizer should be used with the initial watering. The recommended pH and Electrical Conductivity (EC) are 5.6-5.8 and 1.5 mS/cm, respectively.

Initial watering can be achieved by hand watering or by automated watering to efficiently handle substrate in large volumes.

HAND WATERING **To fully saturate the substrate by hand watering, follow these instructions:**

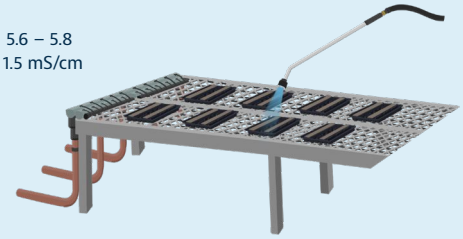


Step 1

Place the strips directly on the bench or in an OASIS® Wedge® Strip Carrier Tray for stability and easy handling.

A. OASIS® Wedge® Strips
B. OASIS® Wedge® Strip Carrier Tray

pH = 5.6 – 5.8
EC = 1.5 mS/cm



Step 2

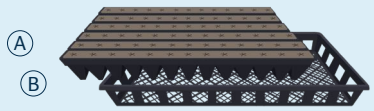
Irrigate with a hose and a breaker to fully saturate the substrate.

It takes approximately three to four double passes with a hose to ensure the substrate is completely saturated and free of dry spots.

This procedure will allow the medium to take on the pH and EC of the nutrient solution.

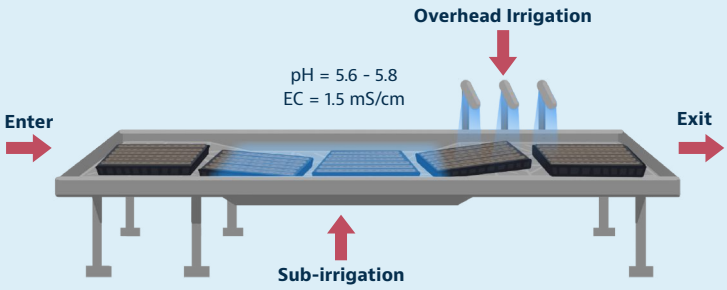
AUTOMATED WATERING

For complete saturation using an automated watering tunnel, follow these instructions:



For this process, place OASIS® Wedge® strips in a web-bottom tray and place the tray directly into the watering tunnel.

A. OASIS® Wedge® strips
B. Web-bottom tray



Complete saturation can be achieved efficiently by running OASIS® Wedge® through a watering tunnel where the substrate gets saturated via sub-irrigation and overhead watering. Reach out to your Oasis Grower Solutions Technical Representative to learn more about watering tunnel equipment.

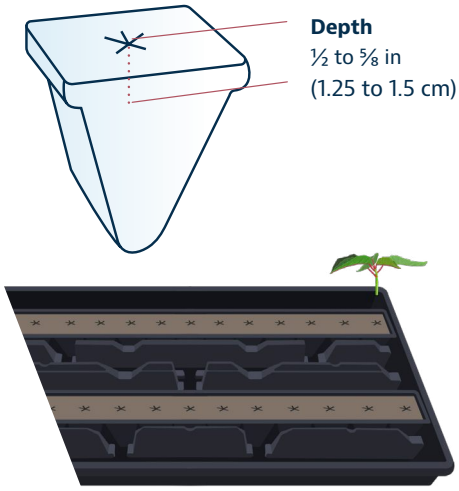
After complete saturation, move the OASIS® Wedge® strips onto a bench or into an OASIS® Wedge® Strip Carrier Tray.

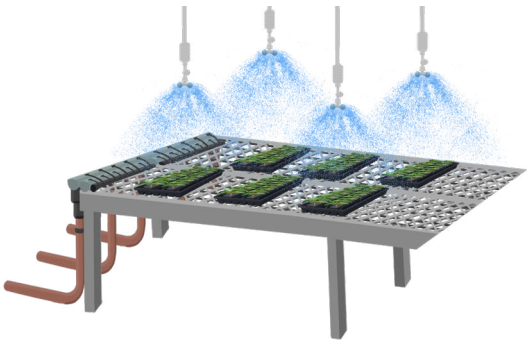
3. Inserting the Cuttings

Once the substrate is fully saturated, insert the cuttings. For standard OASIS® Wedge® strips or trays, the insertion depth should be approximately 5/8" (1.5 cm) deep. The easiest way to achieve this is by holding the cutting with your thumb and index finger approximately 5/8" (1.5 cm) above the tip of the cutting. Then insert the cutting tip until your fingers touch the pre-dibbled substrate. Mist the cutting immediately after insertion.

In the case of poinsettia cuttings, spread the large leaves after sticking to ensure they do not cover the shoot tips or leaves of neighboring cuttings. A low dose of a surfactant such as Capsil spray adjuvant can help avoid droplet beading on poinsettia foliage and improve misting efficiency.

When placing strips on an uneven surface (bench or floor), it is recommended to use OASIS® Wedge® Strip Carrier Tray for stability, spacing and ease in handling and moving strips. Alternatively, OASIS® Strip Connector Clips can be used to connect and stabilize single or double strips and hold them in place for proper spacing.





Mist as recommended for crops and conditions.

4. Mist Settings

The frequency of misting depends on greenhouse conditions such as light intensity, temperature, humidity and air movement. Generally, mist for 8 seconds every 8 minutes. For geraniums and most vegetative annuals, run intermittent mist through the night for the first day. For poinsettias, run intermittent mist through the night for the first 2 days.

After this initial crucial stage, it is suggested to mist between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. As cuttings recover, misting frequency can be reduced, but be sure to avoid wilting. Around 12 to 14 days for geraniums or 16 to 18 days for poinsettias, misting can be stopped. From that time on, water once a day or as required. During propagation, always ensure that excess water can drain easily from the bottom of the media.

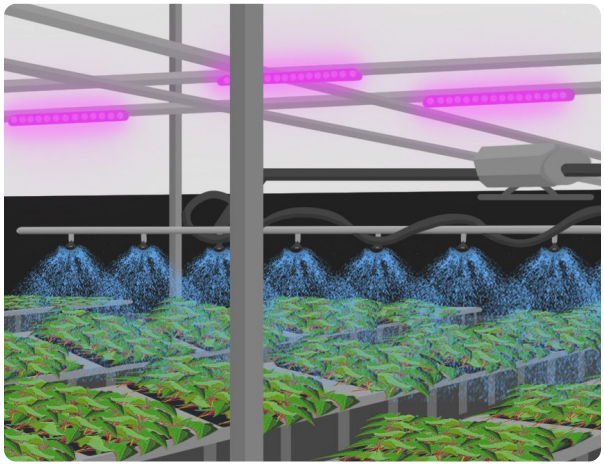
5. Humidity and Air Circulation

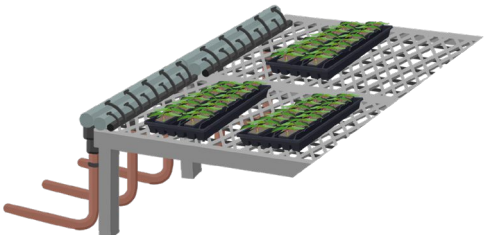
During propagation, maintain high humidity levels (90-100% RH) and reduce air circulation to avoid wilting of the cuttings. Low humidity and high air circulation will increase the requirement for misting, which is undesirable. Excessive misting leads to nutrient leaching from the foliage, increased disease pressure and slower rooting.

6. Light Levels

Light transmission into the propagation house should be indirect or diffuse. Whitewashed glazing, retractable internal shade curtains or a combination of both will provide a good system for light modulation during summer months — peak times for poinsettia propagation. For geraniums propagated during cloudy winter months, this is usually not an issue. However, if light levels are too low, consider using supplemental lighting.

The recommended light levels for propagation of both poinsettias and geraniums are 200 to 250 µmol/m2/second or a daily light integral (DLI) of 4 to 5 mol/m2/day. Once the cuttings are 2 weeks old, a light level of 300 µmol/m2/s is recommended. While it can be challenging to achieve these levels naturally during winter months, even an additional 100 µmol/m2/s of supplemental lighting can significantly improve rooting and overall quality of the cuttings.





7. Root Zone and Air Temperature

For geraniums and other vegetative annuals: Optimal rooting occurs when root zone temperatures are maintained, usually with bottom heating, between 75° and 80°F (24° to 26°C). Maintain daytime air temperatures of 70° to 74°F (21° to 23°C) and nighttime air temperatures of 68° to 72°F (20° to 22°C).

For poinsettias: Optimal rooting occurs when root zone temperatures are maintained, usually with bottom heating, between 78° and 83°F (26° to 28°C). Maintain daytime air temperatures of 76° to 82° F (24° to 28° C). For the first three nights after inserting, maintain nighttime air temperatures between 68° and 70° F (20° to 21° C). Then increase nighttime air temperatures to 70° to 74°F (21° to 23°C).

8. Fertilizer

Seven to 10 days into propagation, begin fertilizing every 2 to 3 days via overhead watering or sub-irrigation with a complete nutrient solution containing 150 ppm N, such as OASIS® 16-4-17 water-soluble fertilizer. For sensitive crops like poinsettias, avoid hitting the foliage with fertilizer solution.

Note: Although OASIS® Wedge® contains a starter charge, some crops are prone to nutrient leaching during misting. For crops that show nutrient deficiency within the first week after sticking, add a complete nutrient solution containing 50 ppm N to the mist from the very beginning of propagation.



Seven to 10 days into propagation, begin fertilizing every 2-3 days.



Once cuttings are fully rooted, inspect liners daily and water as needed.

9. Rooting

Geranium cuttings are usually fully rooted in three weeks, and poinsettia cuttings are usually fully rooted in four weeks. Once the cuttings are fully rooted, inspect the liners daily and water as needed to ensure that the media is not drying out. Depending on the greenhouse temperature, this typically may mean watering daily in summer or every alternate day in winter.

Note: With fully rooted cuttings held for shipping or transplant, particularly during summer months, OASIS® Wedge® substrate may dry out faster. Do NOT let the substrate dry out. If it dries excessively, rewetting may be difficult.

10. Packaging and Shipping

When shipping cuttings rooted in OASIS® Wedge® strips, especially for long distances, fully saturate the substrate strips before placing them in a shipping package. Sub-irrigation is ideal to completely saturate the OASIS® Wedge® strips, yet still avoid water on the foliage of poinsettias or other sensitive plants prone to botrytis. Once fully saturated, place the OASIS® Wedge® strips in an OASIS® Wedge® Strip Carrier Tray.

For smaller shipments, put the filled tray of saturated strips in a plastic bag before placing it in a shipping box. For larger shipments, load the trays of saturated OASIS® Wedge® strips onto shipping carts. When rooted cuttings arrive at their destination, the recipients should immediately check for water status and water accordingly.



Small shipments
Put saturated strips in a plastic bag, then place in box.



Large shipments
Load saturated strips onto racks.



Always transplant into moist media and cover the foam substrate.

11. Transplant

Thoroughly water OASIS® Wedge® substrate before and after transplanting rooted cuttings. Always transplant cuttings into moist potting media, covering the top surface of the substrate with potting mix. If these steps are followed, no extra care or handling is required; transplants can be treated in the same manner as peat-based transplants.

Note: OASIS® Wedge® substrate is not recommended for transplant into field soil, except when moisture is carefully controlled using a drip irrigation system. Under typical field conditions, surrounding soil rapidly pulls water from the substrate so it dries out too fast and plants may die. When moisture can be carefully controlled, it may be acceptable to transplant OASIS® Wedge® substrate into field soil.

Storage and Handling

Store product in its original packaging in a cool, dry location out of direct sunlight. Stored properly, this substrate has a shelf life of 2 years from the date of manufacture.

Food Safety

This substrate ships clean and free of pests and pathogens, including food-borne pathogens.

Disposal

Though not biodegradable, this low-density substrate will degrade after disposal, reducing volume over time. Please check with your local waste disposal facility for end-of-life options.

Questions

Consult with an Oasis Grower Solutions Technical Representative at info@oasisgrower.com or call us at (855) 585-4769.

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