

EPIWEB™

ADVANCED GROWTH SUBSTRATE

GENERAL NOTES AND ADVICE FOR THE EPIWEB IIS 'GROW TUBE'

1. Mix the dried moss mixture with water to a consistency similar to yoghurt. Leave the mixture for a couple of hours or over night, before using it.
2. Apply the moss mixture with a brush. Even out the moss layer with a wet brush. The moss layer should be between 1-3 mm thick.
3. In order to make the system self-sufficient with water, it is necessary that all parts including lianas (extra part) are covered with the moss mixture. Make sure that you have a complete coverage of the surface. The more evenly the moss mixture is distributed, the more even irrigation. It can be an advantage if the cylinder and lianas are moss coated before they are installed.
4. Install cylinder into water container.
5. Connect the pump to the tubing of the cylinder.
6. If the cylinder should be malformed during transport it can easily be adjusted. Heat the part you want to shape with a heat gun or a hair drier. Hold in position until it cools off. The part will now hold its shape.
7. Put extra moss mixture into the joints between the liana (extra part) and the background panels, in order to guarantee water transportation.
8. Only use clean water with the pump.
9. If the holes are clogged on the spray bar, remove the pipe from the plastic clips and rinse it. Open up clogged holes in the spray bar with a needle.

After a few months you may need to add more moss to different places, where for example water drips. It is applied by hand or with a brush.

MOSS FACTS

The moss in the moss mixture is made of tropical species and it needs water with small nutrient content and a pH value between 5,7-7,0. The second part of the moss mixture consists of Sphagnum moss and gives together with the tropical moss good water retaining abilities and additionally antiseptic effect. Rainwater or osmosis water is to be preferred.

SETTING IRRIGATION INTERVALS

Normally you connect the pump to a digital timer to control the irrigation intervals. The ambient climate, temperature and the size of the terrarium, and also the type of plants play a role with the choice of intervals. In the beginning the intervals should be adjusted so that the moss layer never completely dries out. It is also possible to let the system run continuously, if preferred.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sometimes a whitish layer forms. This is a mould fungus, the same type as penicillin, and is completely harmless for plants and animals. It often disappears after a few weeks, when the moss takes over. After a few weeks a greenish layer develops on the most wet and bright parts. This should not be confused with green algae. It is a natural step in the development of moss, the moss goes through the *protonemal* phase. From this algae-like layer the new moss plants are formed.

Moss needs a sufficient lighting to grow optimal (5000-6500° Kelvin). The minimum quantity of light is approx. 650 FC (foot candles), it corresponds to approx. 7000 lux/m². As comparison one can take a 36 W fluorescent light that puts out maximally 1200 lux.

It is important to control the nutrient content of the water. Regular water exchange is necessary in order to prevent enrichment of nutrients. We recommend a complete exchange of the water every two weeks.

Keep a watch for fungus gnats (*Sciara thomae*). Their larvae live in the damp substrate and can destroy the establishing moss. The simplest way to prevent this is to plant a carnivorous plant. On acute attacks of fungus gnats, nematodes are the best method. Please contact us for consultation.

To prevent non-desirable moulds and fungus, a piece of cinnamon bark (same as in cooking) can be put in the water container.

Store the dried moss-mix in dry condition at ambient room temperature.

Important! In order to store remaining wet moss, it must be dried before storage.

For further questions, please contact:

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