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Next Generation slab offers broad control range and generative vigour

## Grodan introduces Grotop Master Dry

**Grodan, supplier of innovative substrate solutions for the greenhouse horticulture sector, has introduced a new stone wool slab onto the market: the Grotop Master Dry. Thanks to the patented Next Generation Technology, this advanced dual-layer slab, with its firmer upper layer and porous lower layer, offers considerable advantages in comparison with its predecessor, the successful Grodan Master Dry. The main advantages are a broad control range, efficient EC replacement (with less drainage) and generative crop response.**

The Grotop Master Dry owes these advantages to its unique hydrophilic fibres and coarser fibrous structure that make it easier for the substrate to absorb water. As a consequence of the new production technology applied, the slab can also be re-saturated even better and faster than before. The WC/EC and the root distribution are more balanced, both within each slab and between slabs, while retaining the generative properties.

The Grotop Master Dry slab is therefore ideal for the professional grower who wants to be able to steer the growth of his plants towards generative growth by means of water management in order to improve the quality of his end products and the yield of his crops. Trials carried out by PPO (Applied Plant Research: the research station for floriculture and greenhouse-grown vegetables in the Netherlands) in the 1990s proved that consciously steering on the basis of water content, increases yields. Recently carried out practical trials have also demonstrated that an increase in crop yields is possible on the improved Grotop Master Dry slabs using this method compared with Grodan Master Dry.

### A summary of the advantages

- The Grotop Master Dry offers a broader control range: the grower can easily vary the water content between fifty and eighty per cent (day level). The improved controllability of the WC and the EC together with the drier character of the slab make it easier for the grower to steer the crop towards generative growth during rooting and plant development. The water content can also be easily modified to suit the demands of the season. The Grotop Master Dry thus allows growers to always get the maximum yield from their crops.
- The Grotop Master Dry slab has a higher level of irrigation efficiency than the Grodan Master Dry. Trials have demonstrated that almost ninety per cent of the nutrient solution present is displaced after the application of a new nutrient solution. The drainage water therefore consists almost entirely of "old" feedwater. In this way, the grower can achieve maximum EC replacement with minimal watering. Even in darker periods, the EC remains perfectly controllable without the water content reaching undesirably high levels.
- The coarser fibrous structure of the Grotop Master Dry slabs ensures that the slab can drain more easily. The WC in the slab thus declines, guaranteeing a generative crop response. In the case of suction of 1 kPa (-10 cm), the water content amounts to 60% in the Grotop Master Dry slab. In the Grotop Master, the WC is then 72%. This offers particular advantages for strongly vegetative varieties or varieties with weaker roots.

### **Corporate information**

Grodan is focused on the professional horticultural sector. The company supplies the glasshouse industry with innovative cultivation solutions comprised of clean and controllable stone wool substrate, in combination with advice and support services. In professional horticulture, Grodan substrates are the ultimate alternative to soil. The cultivation on stone wool substrate is environmentally-friendly and provides higher yields and better quality as well as savings in nutrients, water and energy. In brief - total control of the crop. Grodan's solutions are predominantly applied to cultivation of vegetables and flowers, such as Tomato, Cucumber, Pepper, Egg Plant, Rose and Gerbera. Grodan was established in 1969 and is active in over 60 countries worldwide. The Grodan head offices are in Roermond, the Netherlands.

Grodan is an integral part of the Rockwool Group, worldwide market leader in stone wool products. The various different Rockwool companies produce a large number of varying stone wool applications in which the special properties of the material are optimally exploited. With over 20 factories in three continents and a turnover of over 1.8 billion Euros, the company employs around 8,500 workers. The Rockwool Group head offices are near Copenhagen in Denmark.

### **For more information and visual materials:**

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