QUALITY PROVES ITSELF

CANNA AQUA

by Jeff: Mountaineer & Grower

"It's not just my plants that do really well with CANNA AQUA"

Control in a small room
Why recycle? Well, I'm a control freak, so I prefer to have every aspect of cultivation under control. I grow consumer products and my clients demand this precision. I manage to do that because with my recirculation system I don't have to cope with the mediums that both add and remove substances. This means my plants don't lose energy by searching for food, but can fully focus on growing and flowering.

NFT systems: too expensive?
In the beginning I was a bit hesitant about using a recirculation system. It was an unknown world for me. I was used to grow in rockwool and had difficulty in getting used to the idea that you don't need a base to give a plant optimum feeding. I was also put off by the idea of acquiring such a system; it was rather expensive and maybe it wouldn't work. Then I would have been stuck with an apparatus like that in my grow room. Well, now I know better! Thanks to CANNA feeding, the system is easy to use and it produces more.

No worries about the pH
Worrying about the pH isn't necessary if CANNA AQUA is used correctly since once you have set the pH to the correct value then you don't have to adjust it any more. The pH does fluctuate during the first two days but after this CANNA AQUA ensures that it stays within the optimum values of 5.2 to 6.2. You are constantly checking fluctuating pH values. CANNA AQUA takes this job off my hands and actually "corrects" the pH itself. So don't go messing around with the pH if you are using CANNA AQUA, the feeding does that for you itself. Now don't ask me how but it works great!

Let's start

I start in the following way, five times per year. I put the cuttings in a small rockwool cube and spray them a little with CANNA RHIZOTONIC to settle them down. Then I make up the feeding tank, and the fun can begin. I have complete control over the situation. In order to be able to fulfil my clients' requirements exactly, I need to be able to control my plants at every moment. Of course, I start with 18-hour lighting. I keep the EC at 1.2 in the feeding tank slowly increasing the EC over days maximizing it on 2.1 two weeks into 12-hour lighting. This is a little stronger than what is given on the official CANNA grow schedule (BTW, my tap water has an EC of 0.4).

The first developments
The first week I only use Aqua Vega and RHIZOTONIC. Aqua Vega for my plants' new side shoots and RHIZOTONIC to give the root development an enormous boost. After all's said and done it's the roots that do the most work in the starting phase of the cultivation cycle. In the second week I also begin using CANNAZYM which contains an enormous amount of vitamins which means my plants stay nice and healthy. After the first weeks the plants are always green and robust.

Plants want to flower
As soon as the pH drops towards 5.2 the plants show that they want to flower. With my variety this is around two weeks into 12/12. I always find this a lovely moment. I swap the Aqua Vega for the Aqua Flores; set the pH and it stays bang on again and you see the first signs of fructification.

The flowering shoots
In week five I add PK 13/14 to the feeding which is a good stimulant for the plants while the fruits develop further during the flowering phase. Because it contains phosphorus and potassium, it gives something extra to the plants while they are flowering. Of course, I continue to use CANNAZYM: my philosophy is that the further you are in the cultivation cycle the more expensive a failed harvest is.

The fruits become large!
I find the weeks after adding the PK 13/14 the most exciting. By this time you have done everything that you can and it's now up to the plants to let the fruits develop in size. Luckily, Aqua Flores never lets me down, but it's still always a case of waiting and seeing if they've grown a bit each day. I would prefer it if I knew immediately how big they are going to be.

The finishing touch and the end of flowering
After the exciting weeks it becomes clear how it's all going to finish, it's going to be a good harvest again. The plants let the fruits continue growing to their maximum size and I give them the chance to finish flowering properly by not giving any more feeding.

Gigantic yield
After 8 or 9 weeks we harvest everything. This has become a ritual in its own right. We begin early in the morning with a regular group of buddies and we finish as evening approaches. After harvesting we go to the pub at my expense. It's not just my plants that do really well with CANNA AQUA; the yield has increased enormously as well. And that is what it's all about for me in the end. I have demanding clients with specific requirements and thanks to CANNA AQUA I can provide whatever they want. They are prepared to pay well for this. You ask, we grow, is what I always say.

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		Cultivation period In weeks	Light / Day In hours	Aqua Vega ml/ 10 litres	Aqua Flores ml/ 10 litres	RHIZOTONIC ml/ 10 litres	CANNAZYM ml/ 10 litres	CANNABOOST ml/ 10 litres	PK 13/14 ml/ 10 litres	EC + in mS/cm	EC Total in mS/cm
	VEGETATIVE PHASE										
GROWTH	**Start / rooting (3 –5 days)** - Make the substrate wet	<1	18	15-25	-	40	-	-	-	0.7-1.1	1.1-1.5
GROWTH	**Vegetative phase I** - Plants develop in volume	0-3[1]	18	20-30	-	20	25	-	-	0.9-1.3	1.3-1.7
FLOWERING	**Vegetative phase II** - Up to growth stagnation after fructification or appearance of the formation of flowers	2-4[2]	12	25-35	-	20	25	20[5]	-	1.2-1.6	1.6-2.0
	GENERATIVE PHASE										
FLOWERING	**Generative Period I** - Flowers or fruits develop in length. Growth in height achieved	2-3	12	-	30-40	5	25	20-40	-	1.4-1.8	1.8-2.2
FLOWERING	**Generative period II** - Development of the volume (breadth) of flowers or fruit	1	12	-	30-40	5	25	20-40	15	1.6-2.0	2.0-2.4
FLOWERING	**Generative Period III** - Development of the mass (weight) of flowers or fruit	2-3	12	-	20-30	5	25	20-40	-	1.0-1.4	1.4-1.8
FLOWERING	**Generative Period IV** - Flowers or fruit ripening process	1-2	10-12[3]	-	-	-	25-50[4]	20-40	-	0.0	0.4

1. This period varies depending on the species and number of plants per m2. Mother plants remain in this phase until the end (6 – 12 months).
2. The changeover from 18 to 12 hours varies depending on the variety. The rule of thumb is to change after 2 weeks.
3. Reduce hours of light if ripening goes too fast. Watch out for increasing Relative Humidity
4. Double CANNAZYM dosage to 50 ml/10 litres, if substrate is reused.
5. 20 ml/ 10 litres standard. Increase to a maximum of 40 ml/10 litres for extra flowering power.

EC: EC+ value is based in mS/cm when EC water = 0.0 by 25°C, pH 6.0. Add the EC of the tap water that is used to the recommended EC! The EC total in the example is with tap water with an EC of 0.4.
pH: Recommended pH is between 5.2 and 6.2.
Adding pH- can increase EC.
Use pH- grow in the vegetative phase to lower the pH
Use pH- bloom in the generative phase to lower the pH.

The guidelines in the table aren't an iron law, but can help novice growers to develop a sophisticated fertilisation strategy. The optimum fertilisation strategy is further determined by factors such as: temperature, humidity, plant species, root volume, moisture percentage in substrate, water dosage strategy, etc.

Make your personal feeding growschedule at www.canna.com

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