

Guidelines for Blending EZ Blend

OPTIMIZING YIELD: PAD MIXING



When pad mixing, follow these steps:

- Determine batch size (total yards being mixed).
- Using 10 yards as the example, to mix a 70% peat: 30% EZ Blend mix, use 7 yards peat and 8 bales of EZ Blend (3 yards).
- Measure out the 7 yards of peat. NOTE: One 110-cu. ft. compressed tower of peat is approximately 8.2 yards expanded. If using 3.8-cu. ft. bales of peat, you'd need 25 bales. $(25 \times 3.8 \times 2) / 27 = \sim 7$ yards of peat.
- Unwrap the 8 bales of EZ Blend on a pad and pile the material on top of the peat.
- Add amendments to the pile.
- Mix following standard pad mixing procedure.
- NOTE: We recommend that you add water to the mixture during blending following our Water Management tips.
- After mixing, check for blend consistency – if satisfied with the mix texture, then blending is complete.

OPTIMIZING YIELD: RIBBON BLENDING



The numbers noted in the scenario below are based on using a Ribbon Blender that holds 3 cu. yds. to make a 60% peat: 40% HydraFiber EZ Blend mix. The HydraFiber technical team can provide adjustments to fit your specific blending formulation and equipment size.

- Cut open three (3) EZ Blend bales and drop into the running blender.
- Cut open six (6) 3.8-cu. ft. peat bales and drop into the running blender.
- The total volume is approximately 30 cu. ft. of EZ Blend and 45.6 cu. ft. of peat for 75.6 cu. ft. or 2.8 cu. yds. of total mix.
- Add amendments to the blender and allow to mix for several minutes. At our Conover, NC plant, we do not run our ribbon blenders for more than 5 minutes of mix time.
- During the blending process, we recommend adding water after the amendments are blended to hydrate up to approximately 60% moisture. NOTE: Ask your distributor sales rep for the HydraFiber guide to moisture at blending.

EZ BLEND BLENDING CALCULATIONS

| MIX BLEND | PEAT | COIR | EZ BLEND | PEAT % | COIR % | EZ BLEND % | TOTAL | TOTAL VOLUME (ft. ³) | TOTAL VOLUME (yd. ³) |
|-----------------------------|------|------|----------|--------|--------|------------|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 85 PEAT:15 EZ BLEND | 8 | 0 | 1 | 86% | 0% | 14% | 100% | 70.8 | 2.6 |
| 80 PEAT:20 EZ BLEND | 5 | 0 | 1 | 79% | 0% | 21% | 100% | 48 | 1.8 |
| 70 PEAT:30 EZ BLEND | 3 | 0 | 1 | 70% | 0% | 30% | 100% | 32.8 | 1.2 |
| 60 PEAT:40 EZ BLEND | 2 | 0 | 1 | 60% | 0% | 40% | 100% | 25.2 | 0.9 |
| 50 PEAT:50 EZ BLEND | 4 | 0 | 3 | 50% | 0% | 50% | 100% | 60.4 | 2.2 |
| 85 COIR:15 EZ BLEND | 0 | 30 | 1 | 0% | 85% | 15% | 100% | 66.3 | 2.5 |
| 80 COIR:20 EZ BLEND | 0 | 21 | 1 | 0% | 80% | 20% | 100% | 49.4 | 1.8 |
| 70 COIR:30 EZ BLEND | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0% | 69% | 31% | 100% | 32.5 | 1.2 |
| 60 COIR:40 EZ BLEND | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0% | 60% | 40% | 100% | 25 | 0.9 |
| 50 COIR:50 EZ BLEND | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0% | 48% | 52% | 100% | 19.4 | 0.7 |
| 30 PEAT:30 COIR:40 EZ BLEND | 1 | 4 | 1 | 30% | 30% | 40% | 100% | 17.5 | 0.6 |

Chart assumes 5:1 expansion of a 5Kg coir block (compressed block measuring 12x12x4.5); and 2x expansion of a 3.8 cu. ft. bale of peat. Customers should verify the yield of raw material inputs, as they can vary by supplier.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Managing moisture at blending and during production is important to avoid re-wettability issues. We recommend that growers adopt a QC test to assess substrate wettability during mix production. More information can be found <http://www.hydrafiber.com/resources/water-wisely> or your distributor sales rep can provide detailed information from the HydraFiber experts.

Don't overwater: Because of its lighter color, the surface of HydraFiber mixes dries more quickly than darker-colored substrates. The media may still have sufficient moisture below the surface and care should be taken to not water based on surface drying alone.

Don't water based on traditional pot weight: Mixes with HydraFiber are lighter in weight than conventional mixes, so it is important to assess watering needs by other means than just weight. The best results come from both picking up the pots and visually checking the plants.

Due to higher bark content, EZ Blend does not easily re-wet. Because of this, a surfactant should be added at time of blending. If growing in a certified organic program, we highly recommend reviewing our moisture management tips prior to blending to ensure adequate water is added.

Nitrogen Recommendations: Supplemental nitrogen is highly recommended when mixing EZ Blend at any rate. Contact a HydraFiber technical rep or your distributor for more detailed recommendations.

**Order and grow in HydraFiber EZ Blend with confidence.
Contact your preferred distributor sales rep today to place your order or to start trials.**



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