Grow Better Margins and Better Plants

HydraFiber®
ADVANCED SUBSTRATE

HydraFiber® Irrigation Best Practices

Objective

- Help identify potential areas of customer crop production ‘learning curves’.
- Specifically, how do growers need to water differently?

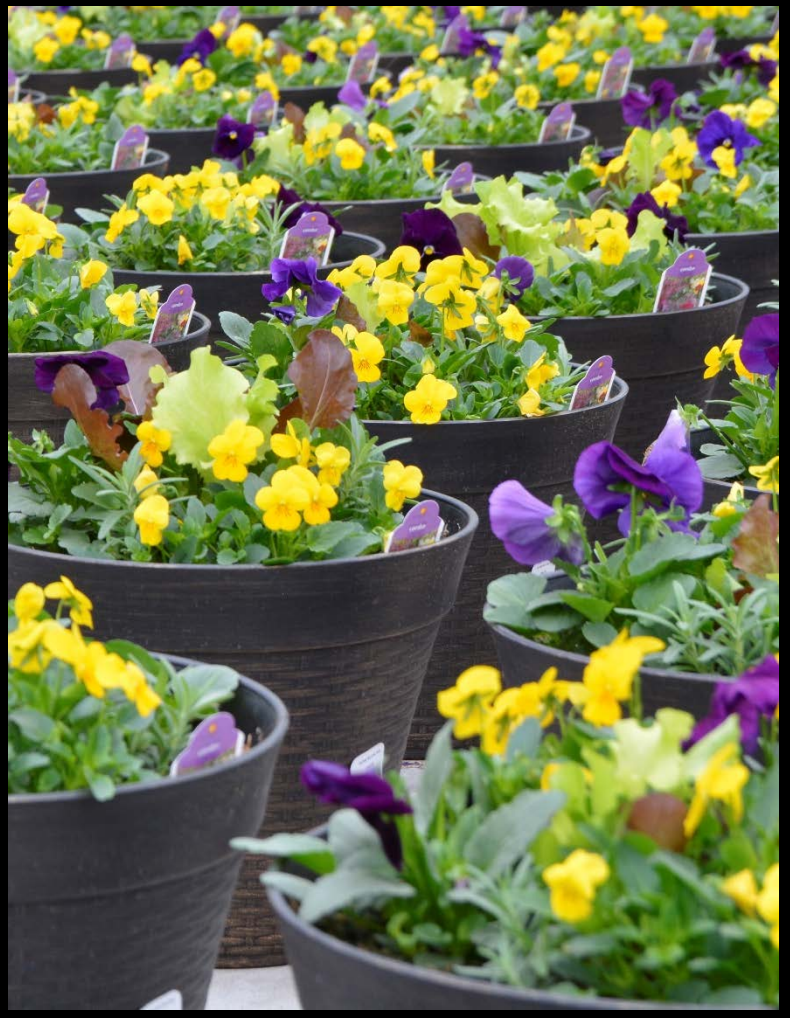
Things to Remember

- HydraFiber – high total porosity
  - Water holding capacity increases/stays same
  - Airspace increases
- Most growers are ‘wet’ growers
- Watering management extremely critical
  - Everyone does it differently
  - 5-1 scale most common
  - Direct correlation between rooting performance and water management.

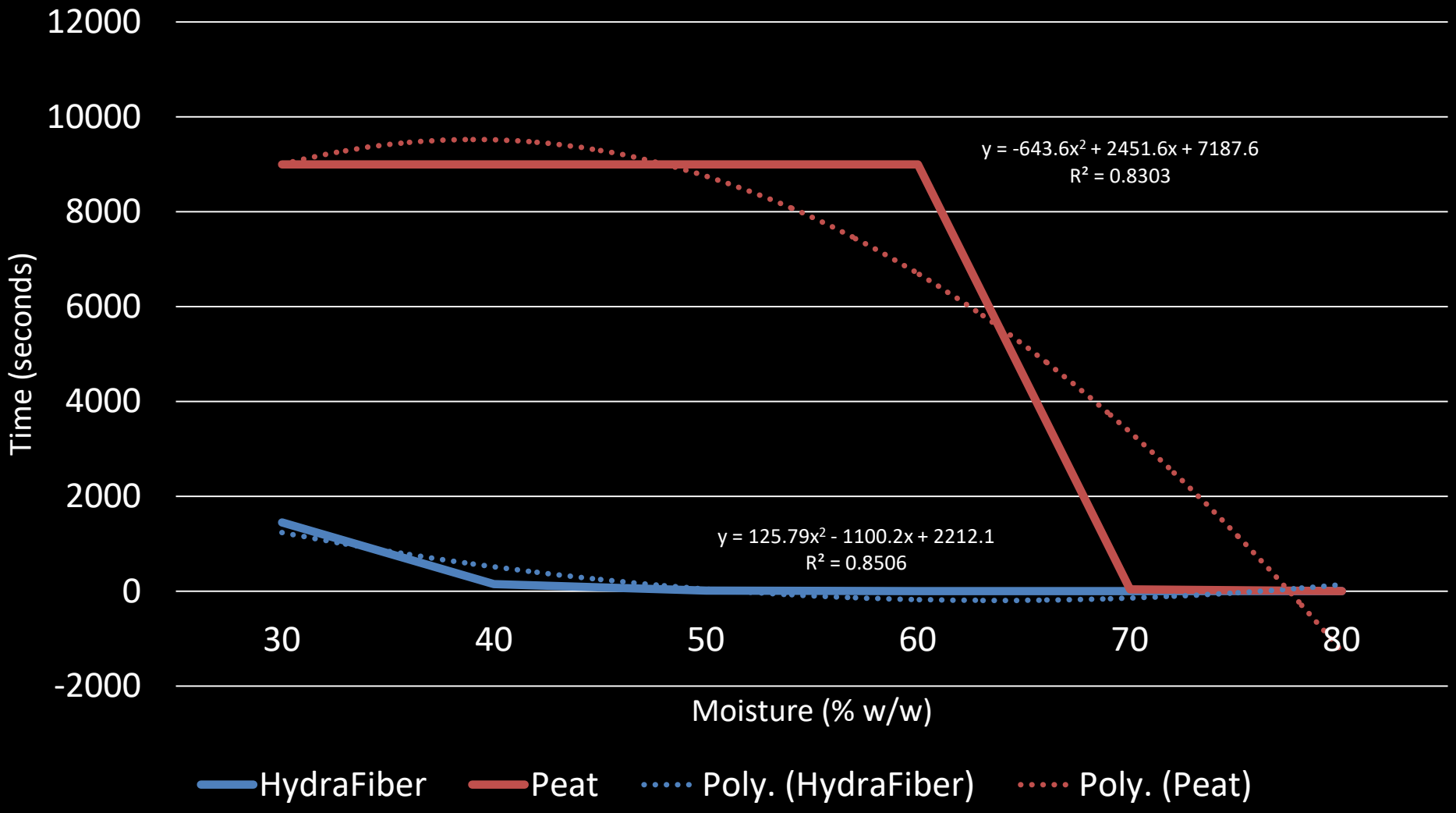
The HydraFiber Difference: Surface Drying

The HydraFiber Difference: Low Bulk Density

- Common Bulk Densities:
  - Peat – 10 lbs./cuft.
  - Perlite – 7 lbs./cuft.
  - Coir – 20 lbs./cuft.
  - Coarse Bark – 21 lbs./cuft.
  - Fine Bark – 24 lbs./cuft.
  - HydraFiber – 1.5 lbs./cuft.
- Mixes with HydraFiber weigh less.



HydraFiber Wettability: Float Test



Minimizing Wettability Issues

1. Use a surfactant
   - AquaGro, Suffusion, Soax, etc.
   - Bark substrates – fungal mycelium an issue
   - Peat substrates – peat hydrophobic
   - Helps mixes to dry down
2. 60 – 65% moisture at blending
   - Squeeze Test
   - Float Test
   - Moisture scale
3. Feel and check roots (production)
   - Adapt current program to accommodate changes


Vigoro
Premium
Annual
Annual Superior
Vigoro
Premium
Annual

Keys to Success

- Traditional practices need adjusting
- Water management key in root development
- Manage moisture at blending and during production to avoid re-wettability issues
- Peat and bark are liabilities
- Surfactants