



Age Old Organics
 Box 618
 Mendota, IL 61342-0618
 (800) 255-4906

Technical Bulletin

Using the Blue Lab pH Truncheon in Hydroponics

The Blue Lab pH truncheon is a simple easy method of determining ppm and E.C. nutrient levels in hydroponics systems. In our greenhouse testing, we have found it as accurate as any pH meter, but it doesn't eliminate the need for a pH meter. You will still need to monitor the pH of your solution on a regular basis. Measure out 1 gallon of tap water into a clean container. Take a reading of the pH and E.C. level. This provides you with the base number or background. You will subtract this number from the totals derived from the nutrient additions made to the gallon of water.

Initial Water Reading		
pH	E.C.	ppm

Add each of the following amounts of nutrient to the water, taking pH, and E.C. with the meter after each addition. Subtract the E.C. results from measurement of water from the new results, and this gives you the actual E.C. level of only the nutrient in that solution.

Use the truncheon to double check your results. Remember this reading is both the water and nutrient, so you must refer back to your previous E.C. calculation and convert that into ppm.

Repeat all tests using Hydro solution #2, and then the combinations of #1 and #2 together. With all these results, you will be able to make a chart for the proper growing of hydroponic crops.

Hydro solution per gallon PRODUCT _____

DATE _____

Results Water + Nutrient					Nutrient Only	
Product	Amount	pH	EC	ppm	E.C.	ppm
Hydro A	___ teaspoons					
Hydro B	___ teaspoons					
Hydro A	___ teaspoons					
Hydro B	___ teaspoons					
Hydro A	___ Tablespoons					
Hydro B	___ Tablespoons					
Hydro A	___ Tablespoons					
Hydro B	___ Tablespoons					
Hydro A	___ Ounces/Tablespoons					
Hydro B	___ Ounces/Tablespoons					

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