

General Hydroponics Nutrients

Expensive hydroponic solutions are a total waste of money. They offer nothing in the way of nutrients that aren't available from Peter's, Miracle Grow, or any other decent commercially available fertilizer. This has been proved by years worth of testing in Bud's labs. Anyone who tells ya different is selling something or trying to justify why they spend so much. The flip side of the coin is someone who doesn't know the difference, or is trying to justify why they are spending so little. It seems to me your way of doing things is a bit short on the nitrate N, magnesium, calcium, and sulphur. A bit heavy on the urea N, ammonium N, and chlorine. Micronutrients speak for themselves, except for copper which most indoor hydro growers probably get from their tap water source, copper plumbing, and/or brass fittings. I don't know of any hydro growers who would knowingly put chlorine in their solution. Further in your reply you say "Much more important than expensive fertilizers is maintaining the proper solution strength and pH balance". Now that pH thing is a "major" point here. When it's not stable and predictable it means "more time" taking care of it, if you want the full potential of the harvest that is. TDS/EC is nothing compared to maintaining a pH level that one doesn't have to worry about, yet you mentioned nothing of the pH buffering qualities of the nutrients. I can't see how you could make these claims about these nutrients, unless you never really watched your solution pH closely from seedling to harvest. We are talking about growing MJ, indoors, with hydro, right? I monitor pH (and TDS) very closely and see a great difference between the two nutrients. I've used all the above mixes (and many more) trying to avoid the "out-of-the-way" hydro nutrient route, just to make things more convenient and less expensive for myself as I'm sure you'll agree. I have successfully brought every crop to harvest, BUT:

1-The least time spent in the garden maintaining solution chemistry was with the General Hydro Nutrients. And it was a considerable time saver.

2-Nitrates are the preferred source for N in hydro. Something you just don't get in adequate quantities and in the right ratio with ammonium N in non-hydro mixes. Urea N is never used in hydro. Sure, your crop will live to harvest with non-hydro nutrients but you stand a good chance of burning roots, you'll watch your solution pH radically shift to the acid side for the first week or two of each solution, will harvest leafier buds, and impart a chemical taste to the herb.

3-My best yield under the same growing conditions and with the same plant variety was with General Hydro nutrients.

4-Just by looking at the analysis you can see the diversity, and possible formulations that can be mixed by using various quantities of the three Micro, Bloom, and Grow components with the General Hydro nutrients. Not to mention using a single component as a way to control and adjust pH.

Now these things may not mean much to you, if that's the case 'nuf said. I know several commercial growers with systems that require well over 100 gallons of nutrient solution. Not one of them uses expensive "hydroponic" fertilizers. Fertilizer is fertilizer. Nobody ever said you had to be a well informed grower to own a 100 gallon reservoir. Just looking at the N-P-K values on the label is one thing, but when one looks a little deeper he quickly finds that fertilizers are indeed NOT fertilizers as far as hydro is concerned. When one compares different hydro nutrients the same applies, even they are not the same. A simplistic view is a convenient one, and generally self serving in the sense that it supports one own views. Plus, buying regular fertilizer and adapting the potency is much less obvious than hiking down to the local head shop or mail ordering special "Hydroponic" ferts, not to mention a fraction of the cost. In fact, with the exception of a Sun Circle or Solar Shuttle, I'd never, ever buy anything made specifically for indoor growing. Everything you need is available for a fraction of the cost from your local hardware store, garden center, plumbing supply or electrical supply store. Plus nobody's watching their parking lots or mail records to see who shows up. True, but it doesn't address the performance differences. It does, however, seem like a good justification for not going to the hydro store or mail ordering. I recommend using Peter's 20-20-20 or Miracle Grow 15-30-15 for vegetative growth and Green Light Super Bloom for flowering. Use them, or any equivalent, at 1/4 of the label recommendations for plants in containers. In containers? What happened to hydro? Just make sure whatever fertilizer you use has micro nutrients and trace elements. I do sometimes use General Hydroponics Micro solution, but very rarely. Most tap water already has plenty of micro nutrients. Much more important than expensive fertilizers is maintaining the proper solution strength and pH balance, oxygenating the water and changing your solution regularly - at least every two weeks. Oh, and you can get your pH up and down as well as test kits, etc. at any place that sells tropical fish. But don't use the pH adjuster if it uses sodium as an ingredient, it's the pH up in fish stores. Fish like a little sodium in the water, it helps prevent disease. MJ doesn't. pH down in fish stores is usually a 30% phosphoric acid solution and is OK to use.