

2.4 Appropriate planting techniques relative to the different types of vertical greening systems

Different types of living wall require different techniques.

2.4.1 Geotextile mats

2.4.1.1 Hydroponic system

Plants grown on sphagnum or rockwool cubes can be placed directly in the pockets. Plants grown in soil need to have their roots cleaned before being placed in the pockets. Sometimes their roots may be wrapped in fleece first. Hydroponic systems need regular irrigation every 15-30 minutes for 15 minutes.

2.4.1.2 Semi-hydroponic system

The plants are placed in pockets filled with a peat or a mineral growing medium such as lecca, perlite, or zeolite.

2.4.2 Plastic containers

2.4.2.1 Hydroponic modular panels

Plants grown in rockwool cubes are fitted into the holes in the panel.

2.4.2.2 Media-based modular panels

Plants with a peat root ball are planted into the panel. The root ball must be smaller than the planting hole. Planting starts at the bottom of the wall and mineral substrate is added from above. The substrate must be pressed around the root ball. The addition of starter fertilizers that include mycorrhizae will enhance root growth. Foliar fertilizers should be used until the roots have become established. The plants must be irrigated and sprayed immediately after planting. They will then need irrigation once every few days depending on the transpiration and water capacity of the substrate. If the substrate has a low water capacity, the upper part will become too dry, while the bottom part will become saturated, so regular checking is necessary after the wall has been planted. Many companies prefer to pre-grow panels in the greenhouse and hang them on the wall when the plants are well rooted into the panel.

2.4.2.3 Media-based pots and troughs

The peat substrate should be mixed with 20-40% of perlite or similar minerals for capillary water uptake.

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