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HYDROPONIC PLANT

Can plants grow without soil?

Which water is suitable for plant growth?

ABSTRACT

As we all know that day by day we are facing land and water scarcity, which are the main element of agriculture.

“Hydroponic, a soilless cultivation technique, offers a promising solution to modern agricultural challenges such as soil degradation and water scarcity. It is a method of growing plants using nutrients rich water with sunlight. This method of farming can be extremely helpful to countries that have poor land or facing water scarcity.

In my research I have grown plants using hydroponic system. For which I used R.O water with added nutrient solution and sun light. Through this research project. I observed that plants can grow better in nutrient rich water and absolutely it does not need any pesticides.

HYPOTHESIS

Plants can grow better and faster in nutrient rich water.

DESIGN OF STUDY

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE:-

Nutrient Solution

DEPENDENT VARIABLE:-

Growth of plant

(Height of plant and size of leaves)

CONTROLLED VARIABLES :-

⇒ pH level

⇒ light

⇒ Temperature

HOW DOES A HYDROPONIC SYSTEM WORK?

There are 6 types of hydroponic system. In this study of thesis I have used Deep Water Culture (DWC). In this system plants roots are suspended in a deep tank of nutrient rich water.

PROCEDURE:-

I have used reverse osmosis (RO) water for this system , with nutrient solution. I have added 5 ml of concentrated nutrient A solution and 5 ml of nutrient B solution with 1 litre of R.O water. Quantity of Nutrients solution may vary on every stage of plant growth. As my plant requires light for growth. I kept it in sunlight for nearly 6 hours a day. So that it gets natural light. I checked pH and ppm of water before and after adding nutrient solution. I changed water of this system after 7 days.

DWC HYDROPONIC SYSTEM DIAGRAM



Nutrient A contains :- Nitrogen, Calcium and other macro nutrients

Nutrient B contains :- Phosphorous, Potassium, Magnesium and other micro nutrients.

| HYDROPONIC PLANT GROWTH EXPERIMENT | NUTRIENT RICH WATER BITTER GOURD | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Day | Day | Day | Day | Day | Day |
| Measurement taken | 13 | 15 | 17 | 20 | 22 | 24 |
| Height of plant | 14 cm | 14.5 cm | 17 cm | 19 cm | 25 cm | 34 cm |
| Length of largest leaves (cm) | 2.5 cm | 3 cm | 3.5 cm | 4.5 cm | 4.5 cm | 4.5 cm |
| Width of largest leaves (cm) | 4 cm | 5 cm | 5.5 cm | 6.5 cm | 6.5 cm | 6.5 cm |
| Quantity of Diluted Nutrient solution | 10 ml | 65 ml | 120 ml | 180 ml | 270 ml | 180 ml |
| pH level | 5.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| ppm level | – | 280 | 440 | 407 | 337 | 583 |
| Plant appearance | Green | Green | Green | Green | Growing gradually | Climbers are growing |

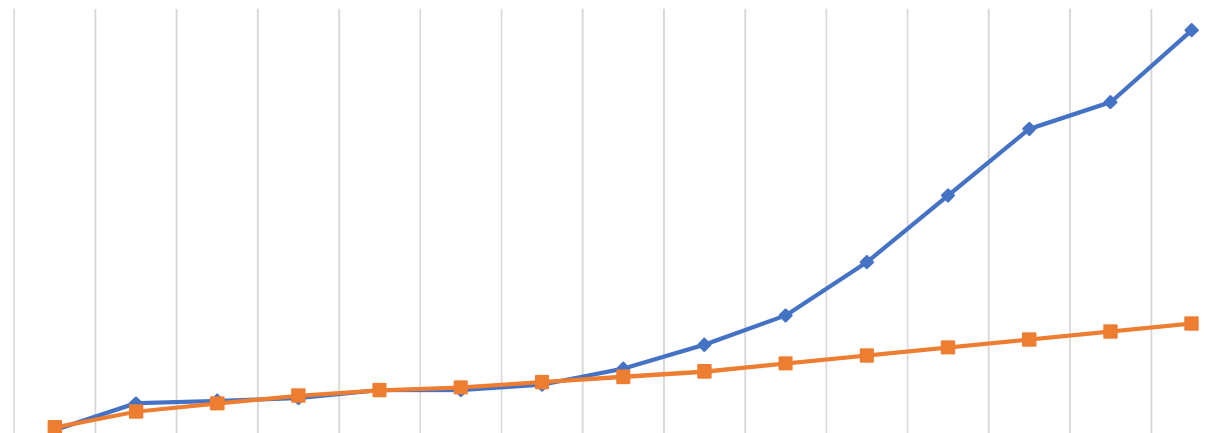
TABULATION

(COMPARISON OF PLANT 'A' AND PLANT 'B')

| HYDROPONIC PLANT GROWTH EXPERIMENT | PLANT A NUTRIENT RICH WATER | | | | | | PLANT B HOMEMADE LIQUID FERTILIZER | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY | DAY |
| | Measurement taken | 27 | 30 | 33 | 36 | 39 | 42 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 36 | 39 |
| Height of plant | 45 cms | 65 cms | 90 cms | 115 cms | 125 cms | 152 cms | 27 cms | 34 cms | 40 cms | 42 cms | 45 cms | 56 cms |
| Quantity of Diluted Nutrient solution / Homemade Fertilizer | 180 ml | 240 ml | 240 ml | 180 ml | Water change 180 ml | 180 ml | 90 ml | 90 ml | 90 ml | 90 ml | Water change 180 ml | 180 ml |
| pH level | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| ppm level | 946 | 564 | 951 | 1263 | 441 | 1000 | 419 | 515 | 666 | 824 | 231 | 264 |
| Plant appearance | Green & fresh | Green & fresh | Growing gradually | Growing rapidly | Growing rapidly | Growing rapidly | Green & fresh | Green & fresh | Green growing slowly | Growing slowly | Growing slowly | Growing slowly |

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF PLANT A GROWTH NUTRIENT SOLUTION AS FERTILIZER

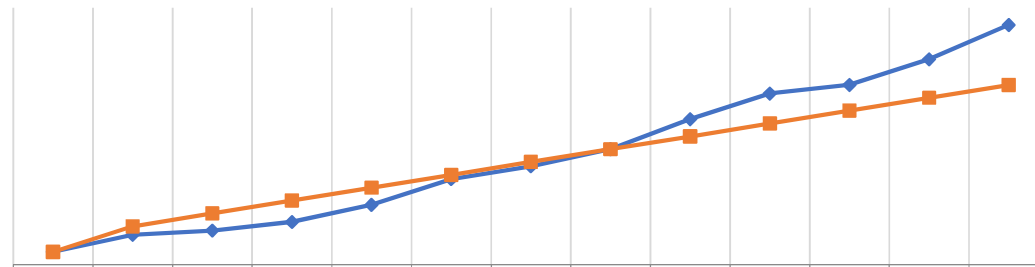
◆ GROWTH (IN CM) ■ GROWTH PERIOD (IN DAYS)



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| ◆ GROWTH (IN CM) | 2 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 25 | 34 | 45 | 65 | 90 | 115 | 125 | 152 |
| ■ GROWTH PERIOD (IN DAYS) | 3 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 36 | 39 | 42 |

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF PLANT B GROWTH HOMEMADE FERTILIZER

◆ GROWTH (IN CM) ■ GROWTH PERIOD (IN DAYS)



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ◆ GROWTH (IN CM) | 3 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 27 | 34 | 40 | 42 | 48 | 56 |
| ■ GROWTH PERIOD (IN DAYS) | 3 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 36 | 39 | 42 |



7th day of bitter gourd plant growing







RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Seeds which I used for hydroponic system needed different climatic conditions and nutrient as well in different stages of its growth.

➡Lettuce needed low temperature atmosphere as the temperature did not suit it, it didn't grow.

➡Spanish needed different nutrient at some point of growth.

➡Tomato plants `growth was good, it was getting it's nutrient and sunlight it required in the apt condition. Due to rainy days, it did not get sunlight and became dull and didn't regrow after two days.

➡Bitter gourd responded very well in hydroponic system of growing, and it is getting nutrients which are suitable for its growth and also receiving good amount of sunlight.

➡ I have two plants of bitter gourd. For plant A, I am using nutrient readily available in the market. For plan B, I am using decompose fertilizer, which is homemade. And I have noted that plants 'A' is growing rapidly, where as plant 'B' which is getting decompose fertilizer is growing slowly.

CONCLUSION

Thus my hypothesis “plants grow faster and better in nutrient rich water has been proved. This is because of the good R.O water, which has the pH level between 5.0 to 6.0 with added nutrients like nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium etc and sun light. As roots get its nutrients directly in the form of liquid. Plants grow faster compare to land farming.

BY

MOHAMED SULAIMAN

V STANDARD

MADRASA-E-MUFID-E-AAM AIDED

MUSLIM (BOYS) PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEELIKOLLAI, VANITYAMBADI.