

New Aero Hybrid Channel Systems

by Scott Andrew

NFT Systems

NFT or Nutrient Film Technique is the method in which nutrient flows in a thin layer (or a 'film') over the base of a flat channel.

Plants are placed into the channel in small pots or without pots.

Plants roots are able to grow along the base of the channel from out of the pots and absorb nutrient from the film of nutrient.

NFT Benefits

Low cost to run.

Channels are neat and prevent excessive algae growth.

Outside: Not a lot of Rain ends up being collected in the closed channels.

NFT Challenges

If the channels get warm (especially in summer in full sun), the nutrient can heat up and cause root rot.

Root rot then be circulated through the whole system.

HydroCentre's NEW AEROHYBRID SYSTEMS

Our new Aeroponic Hybrid systems still use the channels.

By flooding the channels we expel all air from the channel, cooling it with the nutrient. The roots are in special aeroponic baskets filled with clay balls.

The roots are now supplied nutrient by flooding the channel, and when 15 minutes expires, then channel drains.

The special baskets encourage roots to hang out sideways in the air.

For 15 to 30 minutes the channel remains drained, and the roots are hanging in the maximum amount of air, still moist in the enclosed channel.

A film of aerated solution is left in the channel, to provide humidity, and for larger root systems to have for additional feeding if the plant needs it.

The air coming in and out cools the channel with evaporative cooling.

We have a hybrid of Aeroponic, NFT and Flood and Drain systems.

We can also offer the options of a separate channel tank and pump for lettuce (needs low strength) on the same stand. Other options include a full frame for shade cloth and/or plastic roof, frames for plant support, all at added cost.



Although custom sizes can be made, the following represent common sizes

1meter x 2 row	10 Plants	DIY \$200	Fully Built \$250
2 meter x 4 row	40 Plants	DIY kit \$500	Fully built \$600
2meter x 3 row + 1 row lettuce	30+10 plants	DIY kit \$520	Fully Built \$620
2 meter x 2 rows (popular for fences)	20 Plants	POA	
3m x 4 row	60 plants	POA	

Custom building in parts

You can buy the parts in 1m, 2m and 3m channels in either medium channel for general veggies, and small for lettuce, herbs and seedlings. Stands small from \$40, medium from \$70. Pots Expanded Clay Pumps Tanks and Timers as well as all the nutrients are available through our shop or through www.hydrocentre.com.au

For a great look at our hybrid systems see the video at <http://www.youtube.com/hydrocentre>

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