

HydroSpike™ Care and Use Instructions

Welcome to the HydroSpike Family!

HydroSpike is a proven product that if used per the following instructions, will give you much satisfaction with its ease of use and effective performance.

If you have questions, please contact your local HydroSpike dealer, or contact HydroSpike at hydrospike@comcast.net

What HydroSpike Does

HydroSpike takes the guessing, under-watering, over-watering and worry out of your plant watering. It gives you peace of mind: "HydroSpike it and Forget it!"

If the reservoir contains enough water, you can leave your plants to HydroSpike for weeks at a time. And even then, you will probably conclude that HydroSpike does a better job of watering your plants than you did, even when you took conscientious care of them.

How HydroSpike Works

HydroSpike takes advantage of the capillary characteristics of the soil and the phenomenon of siphoning action. It siphons water via the plastic tubing from a reservoir, to and through the soil capillaries to the plant root system. As long as there is sufficient water in the reservoir, HydroSpike will continue to irrigate the soil.

Note: In order for siphoning to take place, the water level must be lower than the tip of the Spike.

How to Use HydroSpike

Note: The ceramic spike is fragile. Do not drop it on a hard surface, as it will break on strong impact.

Uncoil and straighten out the green plastic tubing. Then fill the spike and the tubing with water and place the far end of the tubing into the water reservoir. The reservoir may be any type of container. The far end of the tubing should extend to the bottom of the reservoir in order to minimize having to add water to the reservoir.

You may decide not to use the HydroSpike continually with very small pots. But when going on vacation, these may be grouped together and watered from a single reservoir. Large pots, over 6" in diameter, will require more than one unit. A little experimentation may be needed to achieve optimum results.

Note: Monitor performance for a few days prior to leaving the plants unattended. Check to make sure the water level is diminishing. This may be hard to determine with a large reservoir. If so use a smaller container for checking.

If HydroSpike is used only when on vacations, little servicing is required. If HydroSpike is used as an ongoing watering agent, it is well to check out the system every six months or so.

Due to water impurities, exposure to sunrays and possible other factors, the end of the tubing in the reservoir may experience algae build-up. Forcing air or water through the tubing (water is preferable) from the spike end of the tubing may dislodge the algae. A cook's blaster or other pump or blower can be used for this purpose. If this fails, run a wire 6" to 12" up the clogged end of the tubing from the spike end to dislodge the algae.

Should the Spike itself appear to be clogged, simply brush out the inside



using a child's size toothbrush. If this corrects the problem, the Spike will begin to "sweat" about five minutes after it is again filled with water.

It is also possible that the Spike itself may be damaged and will not disperse water. In this case, submerge the entire unit in water and blow air through the far end of the tubing and a large volume of bubbles emerges, the unit has cracks or holes and needs to be replaced.