



Berger

Technical Services
TRAINING GUIDE

31 Tips & Gardening Techniques

AN ARTICLE BY :

Pierre-Marc de Champlain
Supervisor – Technical Services





Your Expert

Pierre-Marc de Champlain graduated from the University of Sherbrooke with a Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnological Engineering, developing an integrated knowledge of biological sciences. Thanks to the university's revolutionary practices in cooperative training and problem-based learning, Mr. de Champlain is attuned to the fast-paced evolutions in the industry and how suppliers are applying them in the field.

Prior to working at Berger, Mr. de Champlain worked at Lang 2000, working to improve practices in the treatment of polluted water. Before Lang 2000, he worked in the Université de Sherbrooke's Biology Department, performing soil ecology research. He began his career as a research assistant at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Food Research and Development Center, performing work to help preserve food quality and ensure safe food processing.

Mr. de Champlain considers Berger's horticultural niche extremely captivating; its direct impact in the field enables him to use his extensive background in research to the benefit of growers worldwide.

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Tip N° 1

Choose Your Growing Substrate

Choose your growing substrate according to the variety grown.

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Tip N° 2

Choose Your Growing Substrate

Choose your growing substrate according to the growth stage.

Tip N° 3

Choose Your Growing Substrate

Choose your growing substrate according to the type of container used.

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Tip N° 4

Adjust the Water Content

Adjust the water content of your growing media to 55-60% before potting.

Tip N° 5

Choose Your Growing Substrate

Choose your growing substrate according to your irrigation method.

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Tip N° 6
Add Small Doses of Fertilizer

Add frequent small doses of fertilizer for a better control of your production.

Tip N° 7
Reduce Your Energy Costs

Reduce your energy costs by optimizing your air circulation system.

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Tip N° 11
Leach out Your Growing Media

Don't forget to leach out your growing media occasionally during production to avoid salts build-ups.



Tip N° 12
Keep Your Greenhouse Covers Clean

Keep your greenhouse covers clean to get the maximum out of the natural light of the sun.

Tip N° 13
Limit the Phosphorus Content

Limit the phosphorus content of your substrate to control the height of your seedlings.

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Tip N° 8
Reduce Your Need for Chemical Treatments

Reduce your need for chemical treatments by implementing efficient cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

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Tip N° 9
Increase Spacing

Increase spacing between plants can help reduce stretching.

Tip N° 14
Control DIF Temperature

Use DIF temperature control to reduce your PGR needs.

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Tip N° 15
Reduce Your Energy Costs

Reduce your energy costs by improving the insulation of your infrastructures.

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Tip N° 10
Keep a Detailed Register

Keep a detailed register of everything you do to optimize your production techniques.



Tip N° 16

Order Your Material in Advance

Order your material in advance. Bad weather can delay your delivery.

Tip N° 17

Avoid Compacting Substrate

Avoid compacting the substrate in your containers to optimize porosity and yield.



Tip N° 18

Manage the Weeds

Manage the weeds around your greenhouse to avoid contaminations in your containers.

Tip N° 19

Keep the Filters of Your Heating Unit Clean

Keep the filters of your heating unit clean to make sure the fuel is burning efficiently.



Get Your Materials from Reputable Sources

Tip N° 20



Get your materials from reputable sources. This will help you avoid costly, unnecessary problems.



Tip N° 21

Check Your Root System Regularly

Check your root system regularly. Root damage often appears before foliage symptoms.



Tip N° 22

Take the Time to Look at the Root System

Take the time to look at the root system of your crops. Root health is a good indicator of the overall health of the crop.

Tip N° 23

Use a Very Porous Mix

If you have the tendency to overwater, use a very porous mix that will be more forgiving.



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Tip N° 24
**Verify Your
Nozzles**

Verify your nozzles regularly; damaged nozzles can lead to irregular irrigation patterns.

Tip N° 25
**Control
Your pH**

The pH of your water has no effect on the pH of the substrate. It's the alkalinity of your water and the type of fertilizer you use that will have an effect on substrate pH.



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Tip N° 26
Control Your pH

A deficiency isn't always caused by lack of nutrients the pH of the substrate can affect the availability of nutrients.

Tip N° 27
**Test Your
Water
Frequently**

Test your water frequently, at different moments in the year. Seasonal variations can have a huge impact on water quality.

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Tip N° 28
**Analyse the
E.C.**

Collect and analyze the E.C. of your run-off water after a fertilization to estimate the quantity of fertilizer you could be saving.

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Tip N° 29
A Source of Calcium

Gypsum has little to no effect on mix pH. It is added to peat based substrates as a source of calcium.

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Tip N° 30
**Choose Your
Growing
Substrate**

Choose your growing substrate according to meteorological conditions.

Tip N° 31
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with
Professionals**

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