SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

AUTOPOT WATERING SYSTEMS

ALL AUTOPOT MODULES & WATERING SYSTEMS

- The entire AutoPot range is now supplied as standard with the improved, large-bore AQUAvalve5 and with 3/8", 3/8"-1/2", and 1/2" pipework and fittings.
- The original AQUAvalve, the 1/4" pipework and 1/4" fittings previously supplied with AutoPot Watering Systems are still available as spares, as are 1/2"-1/4" fittings.
- Your existing 1Pot, XL, XL FlexiPot, and easy2grow trays, pots and lids will accommodate the new AQUAvalve5, the 3/8" fittings and 3/8" pipe. The design of these is unchanged.
- Newly sold Tray Systems, AQUAbox Straight, AQUAbox Spyder, and 12.4 gal reservoirs are drilled out to accept 3/8" pipe and fittings. Your existing Tray System, AQUAbox Straight, and AQUAbox Spyder will fit AQUAvalve5 but will need existing holes drilling out to 1/4" ⌀. Use a 3/8" Grommet and 3/8" Golf Filter to run 3/8" pipe required for AQUAvalve5.
- Your existing 12.4 gal reservoirs need existing holes drilling out to 1/4" ⌀. Use a 3/8" Grommet and 3/8" Golf Filter to run 3/8" pipe required for AQUAvalve5.
- FlexiTank and FlexiTank Pro Couplers are unchanged. Only in the event of connecting directly to 3/8" pipe do they require the new 1/2"-3/8" Filter and Adapter.

FILTERS

- Always use a filter with your reservoir, check filters once a week and clean if necessary - especially if using organics / if in a poor water area.
- Wash filter material in mild soap and lukewarm water or in dilute hydrogen peroxide
- Once disassembled the filter bodies can be washed in mild soap and lukewarm water, in dilute hydrogen peroxide, or in a dishwasher
- Depending on the condition of your filter replace every 5 yrs. Golf Filters feature a replaceable material available separately from AutoPot.

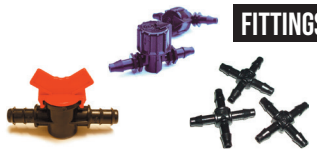
AQUAVALVE

Ensuring that the AQUAvalve floods and drains correctly

- Ensure the two silicones are in place. Hold the AQUAvalve at eye level so that you can see the silicone fitted to the top float resting on the hole below it. The silicone must create a tight seal when touching the hole. If it looks like it is not sitting parallel on the hole below, simply lift the top float and apply pressure to one side of the silicone, drop the float and hold at eye level again. Repeat the procedure if necessary.
- Ensure the AQUAvalve is secured to the tray. If using AutoPot trays position the half-moon on the bottom of the AQUAvalve over the T-section in the tray, push down firmly on the main body only. If using in a garden tray place an AQUAvalve Cover over the AQUAvalve.

Cleaning

- AQUAvalve is easily disassembled. Held vertically the top float will slide all the way across. The bottom float unclips from its pivot position.
- Ensure that silicones are removed from the AQUAvalve before cleaning and are only replaced when the AQUAvalve is completely dry.
- AQUAvalves can be scrubbed using a toothbrush or even placed in the dishwasher.
- Blowing through the AQUAvalve nozzle or use of a pipe cleaner or paperclip will help remove any build up that has occurred.
- When disassembling the system dip the still-connected AQUAvalve and pipe in hot water to ease separation. Once loosened remove the pipework by pulling it directly away from the nozzle. Avoid twisting/wiggling the end of the pipe away from the nozzle.
- Do not under any circumstances use a drill to clear the AQUAvalve nozzle. This will potentially damage the AQUAvalve beyond repair.



FITTINGS

- Utilise the flush taps at the ends of the pipework to help keep the system clean and free of sediment. To do so open each tap into a bucket or similar for 30 secs-1 min. Do this once a week if using mineral nutrient. Ideally undertake once you have re-filled your reservoir and allowed it to settle for an hour. A full reservoir provides you with the maximum pressure to flush.
- AutoPot only supply and only recommend official AutoPot-branded fittings for use with AutoPot Watering Systems.

PIPEWORK

- Dip the end of your pipe in hot water before connecting to fittings. This will soften the pipe and allow you to connect fittings with ease.
- When disassembling the system dip the still-connected fitting and pipe in hot water to ease seaparation.
- If using mineral additives or organics in a larger system you may wish to use a line cleaner such as D-Block, Drip Clean or Keep It Clean. With regular plain water flushing this should not be absolutely necessary but remains an option if desired.

FLEXIPOTS

- FlexiPots are incredibly durable and can be reused repeatedly. They can also be washed if desired.
- Powdery green or white discolouration can occur on the outside of the pot but is entirely natural. It is merely salt or mineral build up.
- Empty after using and let the pot dry. After a few days remaining debris will easily brush off. At this point the pot is ready for reuse.
- If desired, growers can then also wash the bags in peroxide to sterilize - either in a washing machine or dipped in a tub.
- Allow to dry naturally. Do not put FlexiPots in a tumbledryer.

PLASTIC POTS

- Always clean the side and bottom of each pot before you place in the tray, this will remove any soil particles and ensure your system is clean. In turn ensuring your AQUAvalve is kept clean and free of growing media - especially if growing with Perlite.
- The 3.9 gal pots used in the 1Pot module and the 2.2 gal pots used in the easy2grow module are interchangeable and can be used in either tray.
- Don't place trays on cold concrete floors, water in the tray will be chilled from below and will effect plant growth. Consider placing polystyrene, cardboard under each tray to ensure the water temperature in the tray is not affected. Always ensure trays are level.

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RESERVOIRS & WATER

AUTOPOT WATERING SYSTEMS

TYPES OF RESERVOIR

- AutoPot Watering Systems are supplied with reservoirs specifically selected on the basis of their capacity to serve the number of pots in that system.
- Should you wish to use an alternative reservoir it is simple to do so thanks to our range of click-fit adapters and filters but it is important to ensure you have sufficient capacity.
- AutoPot offer three types of reservoir; Rigid Plastic Reservoirs, FlexiTanks and FlexiTank Pro. Rigid Plastic Reservoirs are supplied with smaller systems. FlexiTanks come as standard with any system of six pots or more (1Pot XL/XL FlexiPot) and with any system of eight pots or more (1Pot/easy2grow). FlexiTank Pro is an optional upgrade / separate.
- The guidance below applies to all three types of AutoPot reservoirs. It also applies as a general guide to use of non-AutoPot reservoirs where combined with AutoPot Watering Systems, although we cannot take responsibility for any issues arising from the use of non-AutoPot reservoirs or the use of guidance below in relation to non-AutoPot reservoirs.

SET UP

- Get your reservoir correctly positioned before filling. Never attempt to drag or otherwise reposition a reservoir when in use, regardless of the fill level.
- Gravity pressure is necessary in order for the system to function therefore always raise your reservoir to a minimum of 6" above the highest AQUAvalve.
- Always use a filter with your reservoir, check filters once a week and clean if necessary - especially if using organics / if in a poor water area.
- Do not place an air stone in the reservoir as this can raise pH levels of the nutrient solution. A water pump may be used to agitate the solution but is not necessary.

OPERATION

- Gravity pressure is necessary in order for the system to function - therefore always raise your tank to a minimum of 6" above the highest AQUAvalve.
- AQUAvalve5 has revolutionised the way in which organics can be fed through AutoPot Watering Systems. For the first time, we can recommend almost constant feeding of liquid organic nutrients, additives, and boosters in solution via the reservoir and pipework. It should be noted that this applies only to systems equipped with AQUAvalve5 and 9mm pipe and fittings. Earlier model AQUAvalves with 1/4" pipe and fittings cannot feed liquid organics in solution via the reservoir and pipework on a constant basis. The wider apertures of fittings and pipework on AQUAvalve5 equipped systems produce vastly increased flow rates that practically eliminate potential blockages.
- Re-fill the reservoir when there is approximately a 1/3 of the solution left - NEVER ALLOW THE RESERVOIR TO RUN EMPTY.
- When refilling the reservoir turn the tap off. Refill then leave for 30-60 minutes. Then turn the tap back on. This procedure prevents any sediment being pulled through the pipes whilst refilling.
- Use your reservoir to flush your pots at the end of your growing season. Simply supply pH stable plain water from the reservoir to the modules for the last 10-14 days. DO NOT pour water through the top of the pots. Salt build up occurs in the top 1"/2.5cm of the substrate, where it has no detrimental effect on the plants growth. Pouring water through the pot at the flushing stage may damage roots due to the toxicity of the salt build up at the top of the substrate.

WATER & TEMPERATURE

- Generally the reservoir is best positioned outside the growing area.
- Aim for a water temperatures of between 64°F and 70°F in the reservoir
- Aim for a pH of 5.8 if growing with soil or 5.5-5.6 if with coco.
- Always use a filter with your reservoir, check filters once a week and clean if necessary - especially if using organics / if in a poor water area.
- If you are in a hard water area it may be necessary to flush your pipework more than once a week. Hard water reacts more with nutrients creating sediments that can build up.
- We always recommend the use of Water Monitoring devices. Such devices allow you to monitor temperature, pH, and conductivity. They help you read the warning signs before your plants are affected by fluctuations, they can illuminate the causes of changes in growth and, ultimately, they can ensure you get the most from your plants.
- If your water temperatures exceed 21°C / 70° F oxygen content in the water starts to rapidly decrease. This may have an adverse effect on plant health.
- If using organics, additives, or boosters clean the reservoir every time it is almost empty. To do this, disconnect, empty and discard any remaining nutrient, clean the tank out, and refill with pH stable plain water. Reconnect and run with this pH stable plain water for 12/24hrs before adding feed again.

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