# Hydroponic Maintenance Guide

#### **Maintenance Tools**

#### Left to right:

PH indicator fluid & container PH buffer (acid and base) TDS nutrient & temp. meter Liquid hydroponic nutrients









### **PH Monitoring**

Materials: PH indicator fluid, pipette, transparent fluid container, PH buffer (acid & base)

**Measure:** Use the pippete to take a sample of water from a given bucket, then apply drops of PH indicator fluid (per bottle instructions) and observe the PH.

**Treat:** Apply acid / base buffer as instructions on bottle. A general rule of thumb would be keeping the PH between 6-7. As plants grow, the general trend is for the water to acidify (lowering PH)

PH should be checked and adjusted at least every two weeks, every week preferred

### **Nutrient Monitoring**

Materials: Nutrient PPM meter & liquid nutrients (much easier than solid nutrients)

**Measure:** Turn OFF the air pumps, as they cause error in the meter. Use the meter to measure the PPM (parts-per-million) of the water. Nutrient PPM should be between 700-1500 for most plants.

**Treat:** If low, add nutrient, STIR, and measure again until correct level. If extremely high, consider removing water and replacing with tap. Follow the package / online instructions.

Nutrient levels should be checked and adjusted al least ever three weeks, every other week preferred

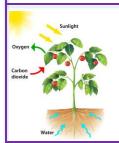
#### Water Level

Tools: Tap or distilled water

**Measure:** Remove a plant from the bucket lid. Insert an empty net pot and observe the water level. Water should rise up to at least half way up the net pot

**Treat:** Consider adding water if low. Feel free to fill up further up, almost completely to the top of net pot.

Water levels should be checked at least every other week, every week preferred



## Contact Us with any Questions!

Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center University of Louisville

J.B. Speed School of Engineering 
www.kppc.org

Email: info@kppc.org Phone: (502) 852-0964

