



Precision Irrigation Package

Unique high performance, fully automated irrigation scheduling system for substrate grown soft fruit



Providing a platform for improved irrigation management and increased financial returns

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GROWER BENEFITS

1) Optimised Irrigation Management

The Precision Irrigation Package (PIP) uses precision sensors which link to a data logger to constantly monitor and accurately maintain coir moisture content. This can help to decrease labour costs by reducing the time spent by skilled personnel on manual monitoring and adjustment of irrigation scheduling.

This 24/7 automation offers protection against the risk of unplanned water deficits. The system is based on 20 years of research and backed up by NIAB EMR specialists whose agronomic support is an integral part of the package, giving growers confidence in their crops throughout the season.

2) Consistency, control and confidence: 24/7

The PIP online dashboard enables growers to monitor the crop's coir moisture content, water use and run off anytime, anywhere using a laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Customisable automatic safeguards immediately alert growers, by SMS text message, to irrigation malfunctions or anomalies.

Settings can be overridden where non-standard applications are required.

3) Improved productivity and financial returns

The PIP automatically matches the irrigation application to crop use, according to settings specified by the grower; helping to avoid over and underwatering events that effect crop yield and quality.

Through industry-based trials, the PIP has demonstrated:

- increased marketable yields of up to 10% in strawberries and 14% in raspberries, compared with manual scheduling;
- run-off can more accurately and precisely managed to control EC levels in the growing media;
- reduced water usage through only applying the amount needed by the crop; decreasing the amount of waste water and the fertiliser it contains, while also saving on energy costs to pump it.

Commercial trials results have indicated significant potential additional net income of, on average, £7,500/ha, whereby a 12 month Return on Investment can be achieved.

4) Business expansion through reduced water usage

The 2017 Water Abstraction Reforms limits growers' water abstraction to that of their historical levels, in turn limiting production levels. The PIP has demonstrated water savings of up to 20%, which can enable growers to increase their production without increasing their water use.

A COMPLETE PACKAGE

Precision equipment, professional installation, expert training and crop monitoring - 24 hours a day; 7 days a week

Included in the Precision Irrigation Package:

1. Initial audit

Ensuring the system is compatible with each grower's irrigation system and production practices

2. Equipment

State-of-the-art, precision monitoring and control equipment provided by industry-leading suppliers Netafim and Delta-T

3. Installation

No-hassle set-up performed by professional irrigation engineers

4. Training

Expert training for all irrigation managers on best practice, founded on proven commercial results from years of extensive research

5. Crop Monitoring

Irrigation performance monitored via the 'real time' 24/7 online system, bringing peace of mind to the grower and all backed-up by NIAB EMR's world leading experts in the crop/water relationship

6. Initial and ongoing support

NIAB EMR support days included with every package, providing growers with the reassurance required with the implementation of new equipment and technology

"The PIP will cut down our labour cost because one person can monitor more hectares. Overall, I can see that it's going to save me quite a lot of time and give me reassurance - you can use your phone to see what's going on and you have quite a lot of back-up with alarms. It sends me a message when the moisture is above or below optimum."

Ollie Bekker (Irrigation Manager)
Clock House Farm, Kent

Simple irrigation monitoring at your finger-tips 24/7

The PIP dashboard provides easy, at-a-glance, real-time visualisation of the irrigation within your crop.



MODULAR FUTUREPROOF SYSTEM

Keep up-to-date with the latest technologies

The science never stops, and the technology evolves. The PIP system is modular by design, meaning that as new technologies are developed, they can be quickly and easily added to an existing system. This allows growers to maximise their 'Grower Benefits' provided by the PIP and stay at the forefront of the industry.

Platform for precision growing

With the introduction and adaptation of other new precision and automated technologies currently being developed by NIAB EMR and its partners, such as Precision Fertigation; improved disease prediction and control; automated control of poly tunnel microclimate and growing conditions, to name just a few; the Precision Irrigation Package can quickly transition into a 'Precision Growing Platform'.



"The system does what you tell it to and once it is set up, it looks after itself 24 hours a day. It provides me with peace of mind that my crop is being well irrigated, meaning we spend less of our time manually monitoring. We are targeting, and expecting, a minimum of 2% reduction in waste, giving us a higher proportion of marketable yields over conventional and traditional substrate irrigation practices."

Stephen McGuffie (Director)
New Farm Produce



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