

# Are plants our saviour?

## The important role of plants in their contribution to carbon reduction is now recognized as the climate change debate gains heat.

The recognition of the role of tree planting in contributing to the earth's health has now taken on a new urgency.

There is now strong support in communities for taking a more proactive role in planting.

In a recent article, Glenn Fenton of the Tree and Shrub Growers of Victoria argued strongly that trees and shrubs planted in urban areas can contribute up to four times as much to the reduction of greenhouse emissions than their actual carbon storage.

### How does this happen?

Shade created by tree and shrub planting in urban areas makes a huge contribution to cooling the environment, thus reducing greenhouse emissions caused by air conditioning and fans.

Similarly, urban trees and shrubs can reduce wind speeds by as much as 50% and lower energy consumption from heating by up to 30%.

### Growers' environmental responsibility



Plant growers and amenity horticulturists are now in a position as producers of the nation's vital carbon-consuming plants to be knights in shining armour.

Your expertise in propagation, establishment and maintenance of plants, a dedication to sustainable business practices

and partnerships with associated companies with a track record of environmental responsibility provides the opportunity, not only for a new era of profitability, but the opportunity to make a difference in reducing greenhouse emissions.



### Scotts smart science delivers environmental benefits

The Scotts Company has a long history of environmental responsibility.

Its Corporate Environmental Management Program was certified to the ISO 14001 international environmental management standard back in 2001 and the company maintains its objective of environmental responsibility in the manufacture of its products as well as the impact that they have when they are used.

Of these products, probably the most universally respected are those under the Osmocote brand. For growers, the Osmocote brand provides a comprehensive range of fertilisers that makes use of smart science to give plants of all kinds the very best chance to grow strong and healthy without checks to their growth.

A good start with good root development is crucial for the health and longevity of plants. Whether it is Osmocote Exact Hi-Start, perfect for deciduous shrubs, Osmocote Exact Standard suitable for evergreens or Osmocote Exact Lo-Start, excellent for mid-Summer potting, Osmocote technology is second to none. Even the organic coating is fully bio-degradable.

The temperature-controlled release of Osmocote also ensures that there is little wastage, so reducing the amount of fertiliser required, thus in turn reducing production emissions.

This also means there is little runoff to contribute to algal blooms in waterways.

Osmocote has been used extensively for soil remediation in degraded areas where it feeds the micro-organisms that consume the pollutants.

### Using water more effectively

The water issue remains an important one. Scotts technology has concentrated on ways to get the most effectiveness from the water available.

Hydraflo 2 Soil Wetting Agent has proved itself in trials to be superior to other available wetting agents on the market. Not only does it wet soil profiles and potting media more uniformly, it holds moisture more efficiently and for longer without decreasing air-filled porosity.

Such a high quality wetting agent allows plants to access water, nutrients and oxygen in the best possible way to ensure fast and effective establishment and to promote their longevity.

In addition, easy-to-apply granular Hydraflo 2 and its liquid form Hydraflo L can contribute greatly to landscape management and amenity horticulture, by promoting efficient use of water and nutrients to maintain good plant health.

### It's up to us

We in this industry have the responsibility of showing leadership in these environmental issues by educating consumers in the role plants take in reducing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

We should be encouraging people to plant trees and use environmentally friendly products, and we should support companies such as Scotts who look to do the right thing.

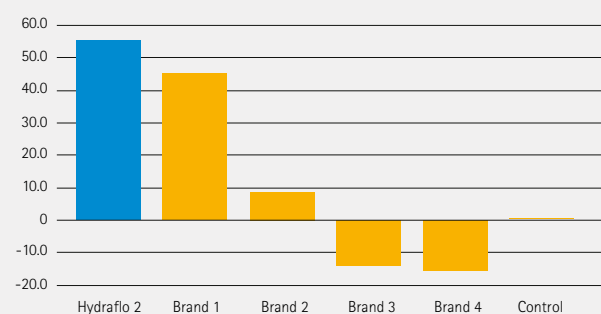
Plants can be our saviour.

## Hydraflo 2 wins judgement in wetting agents trial

Over the last five years, Scotts has had an independent University research facility test a selection of premium granule and liquid wetting agents. The tests compared Hydraflo 2 with four other soil wetting agents available to professional growers and focussed on an agent's effects on re-wettability and water holding capacity on a variety of potting media. It is very clear from the studies that a premium soil wetting agent such as Hydraflo 2 will allow a potting mix to absorb more water without reducing air filled porosity. The actual test results show that after 10 months Hydraflo 2 allowed a dry mix to absorb 23% more water and re-wetted a dry mix 53% faster than the control.

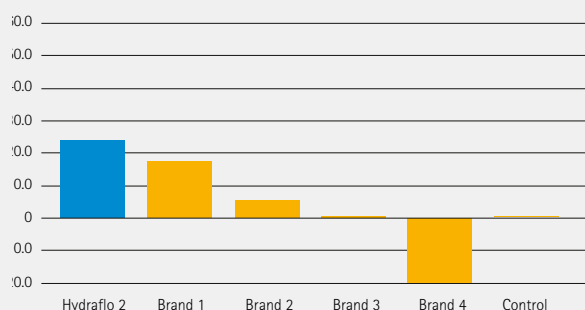
At approximately \$3.50 per cubic metre for Hydraflo 2 you would need to save just one 160mm pot plant per cubic metre for it to have paid for itself. Not to mention the improvement in plant quality and speed to market.

Wettability (10 mth) – % change vs. Control



Hydraflo 2 after 10 months rewetted a dry mix 53% faster than control

Water Holding (10 mth) – % change vs. Control



Hydraflo 2 after 10 months allowed a dry mix to absorb 23% more water than control