

# Bio Green Clean

Growing Edge writers Lynette Morgan and Rob Smith recently conducted trials of Bio Green Clean, a hydroponic equipment and system cleaner, in their hydroponic operations. Below they offer some of their observations.

The trials were conducted at the request of the product's manufacturer.



**B**io Green Clean product was informally tested in one of our research greenhouses to clean a range of hydroponic system channels, growing containers, pumps, tanks, greenhouse structures and other equipment. Bio Green Clean proved to be an effective and concentrated cleaner and removed salt buildup, dried algae, plant debris and other organic material from all parts of the hydroponic systems treated.

The product even removed old sooty mold and honey dew from an insect infestation on plastic and metal surfaces and greenhouse structures. Bio Green Clean did not leave any toxic residue after cleaning and was safe and effective for staff to use.

In the past we have relied on using strong bleach and hydrogen peroxide for cleaning and disinfection, and while these are highly effective, there are associated problems with safety of such chemicals and environmental issues with disposal of waste.

I would recommend Bio Green Clean to hydroponic growers, particularly those with environmental concerns and those who want to avoid the risk of residues of other cleaning products. Bio Green Clean was easy to use and produced a clean, shiny and satisfactory result in our greenhouse.

—Lynette Morgan, Ph.D.

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**B**io Green Clean is a natural man-made, chemical-free compound derived from edible seed-bearing plants. The manufacturers claim that it is one of the most effective cleaning agents available that contains none of the usual chemical compounds such as ammonia, chlorine or any petroleum-based detergents or derivatives.

Is Bio Green Clean poisonous to plants, that is, phytotoxic? I wished to confirm that the product could be used on hydroponic hardware near and around living plants without causing them harm.

I started in a small area of my glasshouse which has a crop of tomatoes in full flight. I certainly did not want to hurt them but needs must. I started with a 10:1 solution which I painted onto the NFT gullies and the surrounding floor and left that for an hour to establish that the fumes or any that had accidentally come into contact with the plant stems were not affected. With absolutely no apparent ill effects (other than removing a lot of dirt and debris), I repeated the exercise at 3:1 dilution in a fresh area of the crop. Again, with no adverse results.

My confidence in the product was growing, and so I then reverted to my spray bottle with full strength concentrate Bio Green Clean and liberally sprayed onto

the NFT gullies and took no care to stop the material landing on the plant stems or lower leaves. I covered the area of three plants. I then wiped all the PVC and surrounding sprayed concrete floor with a kitchen sponge cloth and then hosed off the area with fresh water. After now waiting for a whole week in order to confirm that there have been no ill effects, I can report that the plants look great and the treated area shining bright.

In summary: I no longer have an analytical laboratory available to confirm the makeup of Bio Green Clean. However, I am happy to accept the information provided on the data sheets which were provided by the manufacturer. The product has no trouble in fulfilling all the claims made in the brochures and in my tests far exceeded expectations.

Successful commercial hydroponic operators know how important cleanliness is to the success of their operation. Here is a natural product that can perform for the grower without him having to resort to harsh chemical sterilants or cleaners. 🍀

—Rob Smith

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