

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## GENERAL HYDROPONICS FloraGro™

1/9/05

### SECTION 1. MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

**Product Name:** FloraGro™ Advanced Nutrient System

**Chemical Family:** A mixture of plant nutrition minerals in aqueous solution.

**Product Use:** Hydroponic plant nutrient.

**Manufactured by:** General Hydroponics, 3789 Vine Hill Rd. Sebastopol CA 95472. (707) 824-9376 Fax: (707) 824-9377

### SECTION 2. INGREDIENTS AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS

**Ingredients:** FloraGro™ Advanced Nutrient System is an especially formulated mixture of chemicals that are mixed in proportions to assure excellent plant nutrition. The product is an aqueous, inorganic, nitrate solution. The chemical identity of the compounds and exact proportions used in the mixture are a trade secret; however, they are derived from: ammonium nitrate, magnesium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium phosphate, potassium carbonate, potassium sulfate, magnesium carbonate, magnesium phosphate, and magnesium sulfate

**Exposure Limits:** Some of the chemicals used in FloraGro™, when inhaled in a powder form, are known to be irritants to the upper respiratory tract. OSHA has established a PEL for an eight hour time-weighted average of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction) or 15 mg/m<sup>3</sup> eight hour time-weighted average (total dust). ACGIH has established a 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> eight hour time-weighted average threshold limit value for exposure to chemicals in this category. As long as these chemicals remain in aqueous solution and do not become aerosolized, they are not an inhalation hazard.

### SECTION 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

#### \*\*\* Emergency Overview \*\*\*

General Hydroponics FloraGro™ is a green aqueous solution of chemicals mixed in concentrations to assure plant nutrition in hydroponic cultivation. Ingredients in this mixture are considered hazardous when ingested and a hazardous irritant to skin and eyes. Ingestion can result in gastrointestinal distress, with abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and watery or bloody diarrhea. Ingestion at higher doses can result in dizziness, headaches, weakness, and shortness of breath. If these symptoms develop, do not induce vomiting, loosen the victim's clothing, and seek medical help immediately.

After contact with skin, wash immediately with plenty of water. For eye contact, remove contact lenses, and immediately flush eyes with running water for at least 15 minutes.

Inhalation can theoretically result in similar symptoms to that of ingestion, yet in aqueous solution the risk is very low.

## Potential Health Effects

**Primary Entry Routes:** ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact.

**Target Organs:** Gastrointestinal system, blood system, skin, mucous membranes.

**Ingestion:** Ingestion can cause severe gastro-intestinal distress, with abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and watery or bloody diarrhea.

**Eye:** Irritation.

**Skin:** Irritation.

**Inhalation:** Irritation.

**Carcinogenicity:** IARC, NTP, and OSHA do not list as a carcinogen.

**Medical Conditions Aggravated by Long- Term Exposure:** Unknown.

**Chronic Effects:** Repeated or prolonged exposure to some ingredients can produce target organ damage.

**Other:** None.

## Section 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

**Ingestion:** Do not induce vomiting. Loosen tight clothing, such as collar, tie, belt and waistband. If breathing is difficult administer, oxygen. If the victim is not breathing, perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Seek medical attention.

**Eye Contact:** Do not allow victim to rub or keep eyes tightly shut. Remove contact lenses; then gently lift eyelids, and flush immediately and continuously with flooding amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Consult a physician or ophthalmologist if pain or irritation develops.

**Skin Contact:** Wash exposed area with soap and water. For reddened or blistered skin, consult a physician.

**Inhalation:** Remove exposed person to fresh air and support breathing, if necessary. Consult a physician as soon as possible.

**After First Aid:** Get appropriate community medical support.

## SECTION 5. FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

**Flash Point:** Unknown.

**Auto-ignition Temperature:** Unknown.

**LEL:** Unknown.

**Flammability Classification:** FloraGro™ is not combustible. However, some components are powerful oxidizers and can initiate and intensify combustion of flammable materials.

**Burning Rate:** Unknown.

**Extinguishing Media:** Use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water spray, fog, or foam.

**Unusual Fire or Explosion Hazards:** Can accelerate burning. Container may explode in heat of fire.

**Hazardous Combustion Products:** Can decompose explosively in a fire.

**Fire Fighting Instructions:** Contains oxidizing material. Do not use water jet. Keep fire exposed containers cool with water spray. Remove containers from the fire area, if it can be done safely. Avoid contact with organic materials. Do not release run-off from fire control methods to sewers or waterways.

**Fire Fighting Equipment:** Because fire may produce toxic thermal decomposition products, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with a full-face piece.

## **SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

**Spill /Leak Procedures:** Wipe up with absorbent towels or mop. Avoid contact with organic materials.

**Regulatory Requirements:** Follow applicable OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.120).

## **SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE**

**Handling Precautions:** Avoid ingestion, skin contact, eye contact, and inhalation

**Storage Requirements:** Separate from flammable and combustible materials, as well as from reducing agents such as zinc, alkaline metals, and formic acid.

**Regulatory Requirements:** Follow applicable OSHA regulations

## **SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION**

**Engineering Controls:** Provide general or local exhaust ventilation systems to maintain airborne concentrations as low as possible.

**Administrative Controls:** Avoid breathing mist.

**Respiratory Protection:** If this product is used as directed, respiratory protection is not required. Seek professional advice prior to respirator selection and use. Follow OSHA respirator regulations (29 CFR 1910.134) and, if necessary, wear a MSHA/ NIOSH-approved respirator. If respirators are used, OSHA requires a written respiratory protection program that includes, at least: medical certification, training, fit testing, periodic environmental monitoring, maintenance, inspection, cleaning, and convenient, sanitary storage areas.

**Eye Protection:** When handling FloraGro™, protective eyewear or goggles should be worn per OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.134). Contact lenses pose a special hazard. Soft lenses may

absorb irritants, and all contact lenses concentrate irritants. Particles may adhere to contact lenses and cause corneal damage.

**Protective Clothing:** Wear when the possibility of skin or clothing contamination may exist. Wear neoprene or nitrile gloves when directly handling the product.

**Safety Stations:** Eye wash stations, quick drench showers, and washing facilities should be readily accessible to workers handling large quantities of FloraGro™.

**Contaminated Equipment:** Remove this material from shoes and equipment. Launder contaminated clothing before wearing.

**Comments:** Never eat, drink, or smoke in work areas. Practice good personal hygiene after using this product, especially before eating drinking, smoking, using the toilet, or applying cosmetics.

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Physical State:** Aqueous solution.

**Density:** 1.108

**pH:** 3.5

**Appearance and Odor:** Green liquid with no odor.

**Odor Threshold Range:** Unknown.

**Vapor Pressure:** Unknown.

**Water Solubility:** Soluble.

**Other Solubilities:** Unknown.

**Freezing Point:** 30° F

**Viscosity:** Unknown.

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability:** Stable at room temperature in closed containers, under normal storage and handling conditions. Unstable at high temperatures.

**Polymerization:** Hazardous polymerization does not occur.

**Chemical Incompatibilities:** FloraGro™ contains chemicals that are strong oxidizing agents that react with strong alkalis to liberate ammonia. They may also react vigorously with reducing materials, oil, and organic solvents.

**Conditions to Avoid:** Mixture with combustible materials, high temperatures.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** At extreme temperatures, CO or phosphorous oxide may be evolved.

## **SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Most of the chemicals in FloraGro™ are toxic by ingestion, inhalation, or dermal contact.

## **SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**Ecotoxicity:** Unknown

**Environmental Fate:** Not expected to be significant.

**Environmental Degradation:** Unknown.

## **SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Waste Disposal:** Follow Federal, State, and local regulations.

## **SECTION 14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

**DOT Transportation Data (49 CFR 172.101):** Nitrates, Inorganic aqueous solution. Concentrations of FloraGro™, at the minimum temperature encountered during normal transportation, will not exceed 80% of the saturation limit. It is exempt from labeling (see code 58 of 49 CFR 172.102).

## **SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**EPA Regulations:** Not listed

## **SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

General Hydroponics FloraGro™ is a plant nutrition product. Information assembled for this Material Safety Data Sheet is for the use of this product as intended by the manufacturer. Users should take all precautions recommended herein while working with this product.

General Hydroponics provides the information contained herein in good faith, but makes no representation as to its comprehensiveness or accuracy. This document is intended only as a guide to the appropriate precautionary handling of the material by a properly trained person using this product. Individuals receiving the information must exercise their independent judgment in using this product.