

Guidance Regarding the Rotation of Liquid Fertilizer Stock Containers

- ✓ A Brute container made by Rubbermaid is recommended as the preferred fertilizer stock container.
- ✓ A survey of the Association of Education and Research Greenhouse Curators (AERGC) in February 2006 concluded that the Brute containers can be expected to last a very long time. Many reports of long service life in tough environments were received; no reports of failures were received.
- ✓ New Brute containers should be used as fertilizer stock containers first. If containers are needed for another purpose, they should be taken from the fertilizer stock tank inventory first. That is, if a new Brute container is purchased, an older one should be rotated out of use as a stock container and used to meet the purchase need.
- ✓ All new containers should be dated and the date should be maintained through time.
- ✓ After 5 years of service, and then quarterly thereafter, containers should be evaluated. A test of brittleness (flexing the handle) when the container is empty may be the best way to detect container wear.
- ✓ At the first sign of brittleness, the container should be taken out of service and replaced with a new container.
- ✓ If a manager or researcher chooses to use another container brand for fertilizer stock solution, the container should be checked at a younger age (2-3 years) and checked more often.

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On behalf of the Cornell Greenhouse Best Management Practices Implementation Steering Committee

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