

# Planting Q&A

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**Q1 : Sprouts are stuck in the sponge and can't come out.**

**A1 :** Pull the sprouts gently out from the sponge with tweezers.

**Q2 : Plant roots are rotting or are infected.**

**A2 :** Remove the rotted or infected plant immediately. If this affected many plants, discard all plants right away and clean the machine. Get it dry, spray with alcohol and wait for 3-5 days, then start a new planting cycle.

**Q3 : Leaves are smaller or color changed to yellow.**

- A3 :**
1. Make sure the sponge or plant's root is soaking in water. If not, add more water to obtain standard level.
  2. Check EC and pH according to Quick Guide Manual.
  3. Press Pump button to ON to increase water and air flow to the plants.
  4. Press the LED button to ON to give more light per cycle to plants.



**Q4 : Slender leaves and long stem.**

**A4 :** The plant may need more light. Lower the LED lamps and ensure all plants are covered. Press LED button to ON to make it brighter.

**Q5 : Leaves are becoming too dark green.**

**A5 :** Please add water to lower EC by  $500 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $=0.5 \text{ ms}/\text{cm}$ ) on the scale.



Dark Green      Normal Green



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### Q6 : How do I get rid of algae during plant growth?

A6 : Just like any green plant, algae growth is affected by light, water/nutrition and air. We can make certain adjustments to reduce the occurrence of algae.

1. There may be too much light. You may cover empty plant holes with a sponge, and cover the water tank with the sprout box.
2. If algae is on the sponge, it may be caused by the sponge being too wet. Adjust the water level so that it does not reach the top of sponge.
3. T3. There may be too much nutrition in the water; please check EC and keep it between 1000-2000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (=1.0-2.0 ms/cm) (refer to Quick Guide Manual.). If EC is too high, add water to dilute.

If there is still a lot of algae, you may want to replant after cleaning/drying the unit, and treating the machine, sprout box and tank with alcohol to disinfect.

### Q7 : As plants grow big, they don't have enough space.

A7 : Please refer to OPCOM Farm website to see the specification of every models. It shows the best planting layout.

### Q8 : Can we grow other plants with the OPCOM Farm products than the seeds you provide?

A8 : Yes, you can. Plants that can grow hydroponically, can grow in OPCOM appliances, however each plant may need adjustment to the light, nutrition, cycle time, and pH level. OPCOM is developing an offering of seed packets that will be easy to grow with your OPCOM Farm, and in our Learning Center at [www.opcomfarm.com](http://www.opcomfarm.com) you will find tips for growing a variety of plants.

Note that some fruit varieties may also need a flowering and pollination process.

### Q9 : Can standard seeds and seedling sponge be used?

A9 : OPCOM seedling kits are easy to use, and maintains control of a good sprouting rate. Other market seeds or sponges may also be used in this machine, but we cannot guarantee the result. To plant other seeds, drop 2-3 seeds into the opening of a sponge, and just below the surface of sponge.

### Q10 : Can I grow edible sprouts with OPCOM Farm products?

A10 : Yes, this appliance works not only for growing plants, you may also use it to sprout beans, wheatgrass etc. Depends on different models.

Within one Hydroponics cycle time, you can have 3-4 sprout harvests and each harvest cycle is 7-10 days. Refer to Quick Guide Manual.

