



STARTER PROGRAM FAQs

The basics of orthophosphate vs 80/20 poly blend starters

1. Why should I use any starter? Today's genetics are designed to have higher yield potential. Many years of accumulated data are proving that with today's new genetics, incorporating a quality starter into your program provides early-season advantages that pay off during the entire growing season. So it is incredibly important for the plant to get a quick, early start – especially before stress can happen. Establishing quick and more even emergence can lead to a healthier plant, healthier root development, and an increase in the young plant's stamina. Remember, you can never make up for lost yield potential.

2. What is the difference between 100% Orthophosphate and 80/20 Phosphate? Orthophosphate is 100% readily available to the plant. The 80/20 poly blend contains a synthetic phosphorus, heavy metals, and requires as much as 20 to 40 days of conversion (depending upon soil conditions) to become plant available. This delay can result in uneven germination, uneven emergence, and inconsistent root development — and an overall less healthy and productive plant. Conversely, when more phosphorus is immediately available to the plant through the use of orthophosphate, you obtain better root development, quicker and more even emergence and a healthier plant.

3. What are the advantages of 100% food-grade? The advantages of the orthophosphate 100% food-grade is it provides the cleanest, safest, most efficient method of delivering the nutrients without the synthetics and heavy metals found in polyphosphate blends.

4. Is adding a starter kit to my planter worth the investment? Many farmers are adding equipment to their planters in order to apply a starter. There may be an additional cost, but the season-long benefits of a healthier start and higher yield potential outweigh the cost of the equipment.

5. What are the advantages of including humics with Premium Blend? The goal of a starter is to create the optimum environment for quick and consistent seed germination. The added humics stimulate additional bio-activity which leads to faster and more efficient seed germination. All of which can lead to a healthier plant, better root development, and ultimately higher yields!

6. Why is the application rate for Premium Blend so much lower than other starter blends? Since Monty's Premium Blend utilizes a food grade, 100% Orthophosphate all the phosphate applied is readily available and accessible to the seed instead of only a portion being available as with blends. Consequently, less is required. This efficiency, when combined with the advantages of including humics add up to an effective, efficient package at a lower application rate.

7. Why is a starter important in cool, wet soil conditions? Starters are important because they help the seed to germinate and help the plant emerge from the soil quickly. Seeds which are allowed to remain in cool, wet soils do not germinate. A 100% orthophosphate starter provides immediately available nutrients needed at germination and emergence, especially under these unique, adverse planting circumstances. The 100% orthophosphate starter can offer benefits to the plant all season long.

8. What soil health advantage does orthophosphate offer over poly blends? 100% orthophosphate is far more beneficial to the soil biology because it is in a natural food-grade form and has a lower salt content. Whereas, poly blends can have a negative impact due to their higher salt content and the heavy metals they deposit in the soil.

For more information, consult your Monty's sales representative, visit montysplantfood.com, or contact Monty's at 800.978.6342.

