



### OptimaXX

## Stone wool slab for professional vegetable growing

#### **Product description**

Cultilene OptimaXX is a stone wool slab, mainly made of basalt and made with the X-fiber technology. Instead of the usual horizontal or vertical fibre orientation, the fibres using this technique are orientated in all directions throughout the substrate. In this way, two advantages are combined: a rapid root development supplied by a vertically oriented fibre structure and a better root volume throughout the substrate supplied by a horizontally oriented fibre structure. OptimaXX provides perfect control and an even distribution of the water content and EC throughout the slab. This ensures that the slab can be managed for good vegetative and generative growth.

#### **Product application**

Cultilene OptimaXX slabs are used for growing vegetable crops under glass or plastic.

#### Guarantee

The guaranteed lifespan of the stone wool substrate and foil is one crop if used under normal growing conditions in high tech greenhouses. OptimaXX is produced under RHP certification. The RHP certificate is a quality agreement between the stone wool suppliers and the Dutch trade association for the plant reproduction material sector. The KIWA certification agency regulates this certification scheme. Further information can be found at the RHP website: www.rhp.nl

# Why choose Cultilene OptimaXX?

- Good distribution of water and EC
- Quickly adjustable water buffer
- Perfectly controllable EC and water content



#### **Product characteristics**

The OptimaXX slab is just one of the solutions from Cultilene for growing plants. This controllable water buffer has the following characteristics:

Parameter	
Time required to sink	Class 1 RHP < 25 sec
Nominal water content - at drainage	90%
Nominal water content - pF1	55%
Control range *	50 - 80%

<sup>\*</sup> Indication of average values in practice.

The RHP standard applies to the minimum values.

#### **Technical details**

#### **Physical requirements**

Parameter		
Organic matter	1,0 - 5,5%	
Bulk density at delivery	45 kg/m³ *	
Relative compression (RC)	≤ 30% at 5 kPa	
Recovery capacity	≥ 98% +/- 2% at 5 kPa	
Pore volume	≥ 95%	

<sup>\*</sup> Tolerance + / - 10%.

#### **Chemical requirements**

Parameter	Norms
EC	≤ 0,5 dS/m
pH value in stone wool	5 - 6,5

#### **Substrate tolerances**

The following tolerances apply to the nominal dimensions of the final product (dry product):

Dimensions of slabs	
Length	+ / - 7 mm
Width	+ / - 5 mm
Height	+ / - 5 mm
Plant holes in slabs	
Centre-to-centre spacing	+ / - 2 mm
Position of first hole	+ / - 10 mm
Centre hole to slab edge (side)	+ / - 10 mm
Depth of hole	+/-3 mm
Diameter of hole (round holes)	+ / - 2 mm
Length x width (other holes)	+ / - 2 mm

#### **Standard product dimensions**

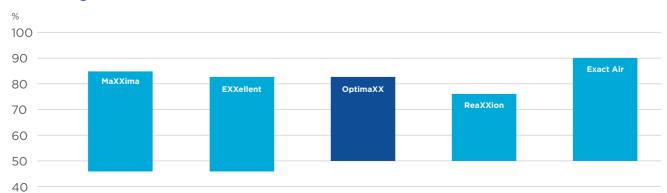
The most commonly used dimensions for OptimaXX slabs are a combination of the following length, width and height measurements:

Length (mm)	Width (mm)		
	120	150	195
1000	75	75   100	75
1200	75	75   100	75
1330	75	75   100	75
2000	75	75	75

Alternative sizes are available on request.

If desired, the OptimaXX slabs are provided with plant holes. After production and processing, the slabs are stacked on pallets and prepared for transport.

#### **Control range**



#### **Packaging and storage**

OptimaXX slabs are delivered in standard packaging on standard pallets (1200 x 1000 mm). Different pallet sizes are available on request.

Each pallet has a pallet label with information such as the production order number, item number, product description and product characteristics.



The pallets must be stored (indoors) in their original packaging in a dry place and away from direct sunlight. The products must be used within two years of the delivery date. Pallets must be stacked no more than 4 high, and we would like to emphasise that the safety rules that apply to stacking pallets must be observed. Ensure the prevention of damage to the packaging material.

#### **User instructions**

OptimaXX slabs must be completely saturated with water before use. Leave the slabs for a minimum of 24 hours (preferably 48 hours) fully saturated with water at the EC and pH prescribed for your crop.

Then make the drainage slits within 24 hours before

planting. The position of the drainage slits in combination with the correct dose size will influence the distribution of water and EC in the slab and the drainage of elements. It is important to minimize the fluctuations in water content and EC throughout the whole slab because these fluctuations will have a major impact on the root distribution in the slab.

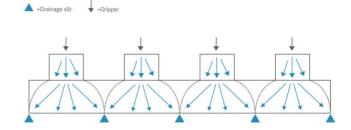
Making drainage slits is a measure that must be done with care because it will influence the growth of the plant for the rest of the season.

The objective is to get a homogeneous water content and EC throughout the slab. If extra drainage slits are made later during cultivation, the distribution of water and EC in the slab will change and this will have impact on the quality of the roots.

Additional tips for making drainage slits:

- make drainage slits at the lowest point on both ends of the slab. The drainage slits located between the ends must be made exactly between the cubes:
- this results in an even drainage pattern throughout the slab so that water and fertilizers can be refreshed more effectively and more efficiently;
- if the slab is not absolutely level when using hanging gutters, drainage slits can be made on both sides to ensure the drainage is the same throughout the slab;
- all drainage slits must run to the bottom of the slab and have to be high enough (3 - 4 cm). In order to prevent the roots from restricting the flow of drainage water;
- never make a drainage slit under a dripper as this can lead to 'false drainage'.

The target level for moisture content is between 50% and 80% of the volume.



#### **Environment, health and safety concerns**

#### **Environmental concerns: recycling**

Cultilene devotes a great deal of attention to the recycling of raw materials, both at our own production locations and, after use, at growers' locations. The recycled stone wool can be used, for example, in the production of bricks.

For more information about the recycling of your stone wool, you can contact your Cultilene representative.

#### **Health concerns**

If you are in direct contact with stone wool substrate, we advise you to wear gloves. In insufficiently ventilated spaces, we advise the use of a face mask. Wash your hands before and after handling the stone wool substrate. You can best do this by first rinsing your hands with water to get rid of the dust. Then wash your hands with soap.

In case of irritation to eyes or mouth; rinse with clean water and consult a doctor if necessary.

Stone wool from Cultilene is a 'mineral wool' produced in certified EUCEB factories. EUCEB certifies the conformity of stone wool fibres with Note Q of Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008.

#### Safety

If needed, we can supply you with the General Safety Information Sheet for Stone Wool (Safe Use Information Sheet - SUIS).

#### Certification

All Cultilene production and manufacturing sites in Europe are certified with the ISO 9001 & 14001 standards.

In addition, OptimaXX is included in the RHP certification MOD550 stone wool substrate.

#### **Knowledge**

Please refer to the Cultilene Framework for more information about the propagation and growing phases. This can be found at app.cultilene.com.





Would you like more information about the **OptimaXX slab?**Get in touch!

➤ Saint-Gobain Cultilene B.V. +31 (0)161 22 87 40 info.cultilene@saint-gobain.com www.cultilene.com