Figures

**Fig.1**



(Figure) 1.(a) Water holding capacity (ml per L substrate) of each substrate at 80mm substrate depth, (b) water holding capacity (ml per L substrate) of each substrate at 120mm substrate depth, (c) mean total evapotranspiration (ml per pot) at 80mm substrate depth, (d) mean total evapotranspiration (ml per pot) of at 120mm substrate depth. Error bars are +/- one standard error. Means with same letter do not significantly differ from each other within the same sub-figure (Tukey HSD, p<0.05). Abbreviations are as follows, SG= Swell Gel present, No SG= Swell Gel not present.

**Fig. 2**



**(Figure) 2.(a) shoot biomass on 80mm substrate depth, (b) shoot biomass on 120mm substrate depth, (c) root biomass on 80mm substrate depth, (d) root biomass on 120mm substrate depth, (e) root:shoot ratios on 80mm substrate depth, and (f) root:shoot ratio on 120mm substrate depth. Error bars are +/- one standard error. Means with same letter do not significantly differ from each other within the same sub-figure (Tukey HSD, p<0.05). Abbreviations are as follows, SG= Swell Gel present, No SG= Swell Gel not present.**

**Fig. 3**



**(Figure) 3a. Shoot nitrogen concentration (mg N mg-1 dry biomass) on 80mm substrate depth, (b) Shoot nitrogen concentration (mg N mg-1 dry biomass) on 120mm substrate depth, (c) Shoot chlorophyll concentration (mg-1 g dry biomass) on 80mm substrate depth, (d) Shoot chlorophyll concentration (mg-1 g dry biomass) on 120mm substrate depth**. **Error bars are +/- one standard error. Means with same letter do not significantly differ from each other within the same sub-figure (Tukey HSD, p<0.05).** **Abbreviations are as follows, SG= Swell Gel present, No SG= Swell Gel not present.**