

# Phyto Plus<sup>+</sup>

## Rotifer Culture Guide

Rotifers are very hungry animals and consume large amount of algae cells each day each one consumes approx. 200 cells an hour x that by million rotifers

That's a lot of algae so the average home grower of phyto will find it difficult to keep up. That's where we come in we can supply you with concentrated phytoplankton

Or live phyto with very low costs much cheaper than growing it yourselves.

Also we can supply you with live rotifers and full kits to get you started.

Rotifer equipment list:

1. Good healthy rotifers (phyto plus) contact: [sales@phytoplus.co.uk](mailto:sales@phytoplus.co.uk)
2. R/o water
3. Salt
4. Our roti - Reactor 5 litres or 4-5 gallon bucket.
5. Ridged tubing if not using our reactor available from phyto plus we recommend not using air stones as this can strip the rotifer culture
- 6 Small air pump with air control valve
9. Algae single feed nannochloropsis is the best for rotifers from phyto plus (roti fer feed)
10. 53 micron filter

Physical parameters:

## Temperature

A value of 20-24 °C is best

## Light

No light is required for rotifers and best avoided.

## S.g

1.017 - 1.019

## PH

7.00-8.00

## Basic culture information:

If you are using our roti - reactor: fill the vessel with saltwater with a s.g of 1.015 - 1.017 have the air pump so the bubbles are producing around 2 bubbles a second, this will need to be increased a little later as rotifer culture increases in density (populations increase) this is to cope with more oxygen demand. if using a 500ml bottle of our rotifers acclimatise the rotifers so the temperatures are equilibrium, room temperature is fine pour in the rotifers now add 0.5ml - 0.8ml of rotifer feed this is a little less feed used to start with as it takes a couple of days for the rotifer culture to get going and bacteria to colonise keep your eye on the colour of the culture water it should look like a nice green tint (see chart), if it clears within few hours add a little more rotifer feed (see colour chart below)

Leave your culture for about 3-4 days for the rotifers to settle (feeding each day), as they multiply in numbers they will consume more and more algae this is the key that your rotifers are producing and eating the algae. On the 3rd or the 4th day harvest 40-50% of your culture every day or every other day this will keep your culture healthy and producing many fertile eggs.

key: I am adding enough algae? We recommend 2 feedings a day rather than 1 large feed one in the morning and one in the evening this is normally around 1ml in the morning and 1ml at night using our roti-reactor. (you can use a little less algae)

If by the second feed the algae has cleared you will need to add a little more algae the first feed and so on the key is not letting the tank clear completely

this looks like a yellow tint and you can see through the vessel then they have run out of food and this is not good for the rotifer culture as this will shock the rotifers and may crash the culture. You will pick it up after a few attempts.

Keep checking the culture look through the container as you will see more and more of the rotifers (white spec dots)

we recommend concentrating the rotifers through a 53 micron filter which are in our store rinse rotifers under fresh water (R/O) for a few seconds

And there ready to feed your animals. Replenish your culture with fresh saltwater and algae and repeat the process daily or every other day.

Storage of rotifers:

Fridge short term

You can store rotifers in the fridge (in salt water) if you don't plan on using them al thel best place to store rotifers is in the door of the fridge or the top

Add enough algae so they don't starve.

Add some ammonia remover to the culture. this will increase storage life by a few days.

Always keep the cap loose so the culture can retain oxygen.

we would not recommend storing any live rotifers for more than 1 week.

Freezer long term

You can freeze concentrated rotifers in low salt water @ 7- 10 ppt add nano and simply store in ice cubes and use when needed.

Keys to remember:

Never use fish or coral tank water as this may contaminate your culture

Never let your rotifers run out of algae.

Never use just yeast based foods nano is the best food source for rotifers.

Strip down your culture every 3-4 weeks for a good clean.

Keep your eye on the culture.

[www.phytoplus.co.uk](http://www.phytoplus.co.uk)