



Faster finishing, and enhanced variegation with Philips LED grow lights

The challenge

Like many growers that use supplemental light, Walters Gardens was challenged with managing energy costs when growing under traditional HPS lighting. “We were looking for a lighting option that could reduce our energy consumption, while expanding our lighted growing space” says Walters Gardens’ Aren Phillips.

While attending American Hort’s Cultivate trade fair in 2019 in which the Philips LED toplighting compact was introduced to the North America market, Phillips learned of the Philips LED toplighting compact. “I had been following LED products and looking for improvements in efficacy. I saw the Philips toplighting compact... and knew it was what we needed to expand our lighted growing space.”

“

Under Philips LEDs, we’ve been able to finish our products 1 to 2 weeks ahead of schedule.”

Aren Phillips, Finishing Lead Grower

Key benefits

- Two-week faster finishing of hostas
- More active root hairs
- Fuller plant tops





The solution

In 2014, Walters Gardens was one of the first growers in North America to install and test Philips toplighting over several of their perennial cultivars. Expansion continued in 2019 and again in 2020, illuminating the greenhouse space with different crop varieties, including hostas. “Because of how well the first installation went, we did not have to think about what to purchase for our next two consecutive installations. It was easy to make the choice and continue expanding with Philips LED toplighting compact.”

For each project, Walters Gardens and Signify collaborated to create precise, custom-designed light recipes. A complete light recipe accounts for factors unique to each grower and incorporates light level, spectrum, uniformity, and timing to prescribe a detailed lighting strategy.

In early season, the toplighting compact was used to start Delphinium, Dianthus, and Alcea. Then mid-season, Walters Gardens moved nearly four million hostas to the TLC lit area. When asked about cost saving benefits, Phillips said, “our estimated ROI is 3.5 years. We know, we are going to use fixtures well beyond that.”

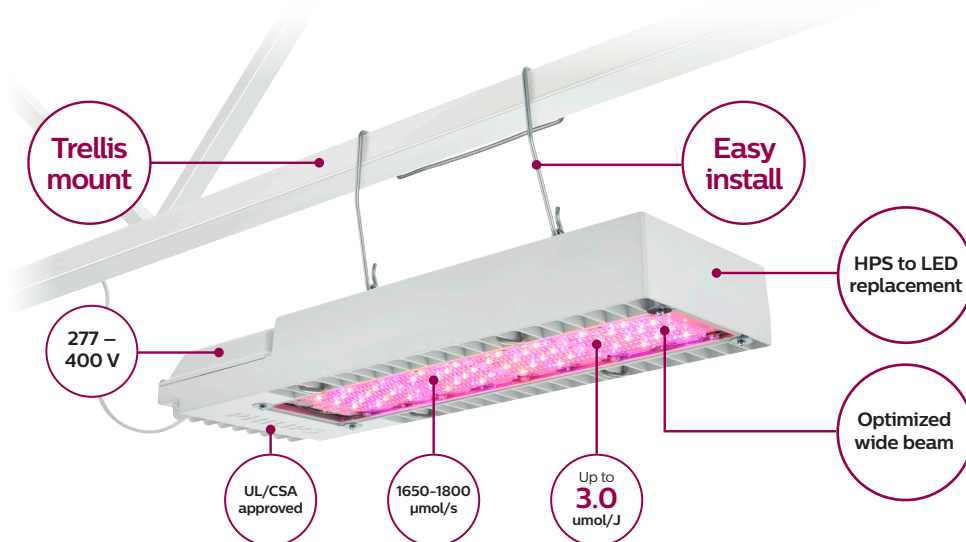
Benefits

Under Philips LED grow lights, Walters Gardens noticed many favorable results. When asked about cost saving benefits, Phillips commented, “our ROI for the Philips toplighting compact is estimated 3.5 years. We know, we are going to use fixtures well beyond that.”

Other benefits include:

- Two-week faster finishing of hostas
- More active root hairs
- Fuller plant tops
- Hostas are more active, requiring less use of PGRs
- Hosta variegation is more enhanced, leading to easier sorting of varieties

“Working with Signify has been hugely beneficial to Walters Gardens. Whether it’s working on light plans together or communicating about new products” added Philips.



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