

**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET**  
**GENERAL HYDROPONICS RARE EARTH™**

**3/12/09**

**SECTION 1. MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION**

**Product Name:** General Hydroponics Rare Earth™  
**General Use:** An auxiliary soil and plant substance

**Manufactured by:** General Hydroponics, 3789 Vine Hill Rd. Sebastopol CA 95472.  
(707) 824-9376 Fax: (707) 824-9377

**For Emergency Day or Night Call:** CHEMTREC – Domestic North America 800-424-9300,  
International 703-527-3887 (collect calls accepted)

**SECTION 2. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS**

**Ingredients:** Rare Earth™ is a mixture of 50% pyrophyllitic silicate clay and 18% humic acids derived from leonardite.

**Exposure Limits:** Rare Earth™ when inhaled in a powder form can be an irritant to the upper respiratory tract. OSHA has established a PEL for an eight-hour time weighted average of 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (respirable fraction) or 15-mg/m<sup>3</sup> eight-hour time weighted average (total dust). ACGIH has established a 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> eight-hour time weighted average threshold limit value for exposure to chemicals in this category. When these chemicals are in aqueous solution and are not aerosolized, they are not an inhalation hazard.

**SECTION 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION**

**\*\*\* Emergency Overview \*\*\***

**As part of good industrial and personal hygiene and safety procedure,  
avoid all unnecessary exposure to the chemical substance and ensure  
prompt removal from skin, eyes and clothing.**

**Potential Health Effects**

**Primary Entry Routes:** inhalation

**Target Organs:** Lungs

**Inhalation:** At low concentrations can cause irritation and breathing difficulty. Massive over-exposure to respirable dust over a short time is rapidly fatal. Long term exposures may cause cancer.

**Ingestion:** Unknown

**Eye:** Irritation

**Skin:** None



**Chronic Effects:** Prolonged exposures to respirable silica dusts can cause chronic silicosis.

**Carcinogenicity:** NIOSH considers silicone to be a potential occupational carcinogen.

**Medical Conditions Aggravated by Long- Term Exposure:** Unknown

**Other:** None

## **SECTION 4. FIRST AID MEASURES**

**Inhalation:** Remove exposed person to fresh air and support breathing, if necessary. Consult a physician as soon as possible.

**Ingestion:** Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious or convulsing person. Contact a poison control center. Unless the poison control center advises otherwise, have the conscious and alert person drink 1 to 2 glasses of water, then induce vomiting.

**Eye Contact:** Do not allow victim to rub or keep eyes tightly shut. Gently lift eyelids and flush immediately and continuously with flooding amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. Consult a physician or ophthalmologist if pain or irritation develops.

**Skin Contact:** Wash exposed area with soap and water. For reddened or blistered skin, consult a physician.

**After first aid:** Get appropriate community medical support.

## **SECTION 5. FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA**

**Flash Point:** Unknown

**Auto-ignition Temperature:** Unknown

**LEL:** Unknown

**Flammability Classification:** Not flammable

**Burning Rate:** Not flammable

**Extinguishing Media:** Use dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water spray, fog, or foam.

**Unusual Fire or Explosion Hazards:** Container may explode in heat of fire.

**Hazardous Combustion Products:** Unknown

**Fire Fighting Instructions:** Do not release run-off from fire control methods to sewers or waterways.

**Fire Fighting Equipment:** Because fire may produce toxic thermal decomposition products, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with a full-face piece.

## **SECTION 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

**Spill /Leak Procedures:** Sweep up with soft bristle brush. Avoid inhalation of dust.

**Regulatory Requirements:** Follow applicable OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.120).

## SECTION 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

**Handling Precautions:** Avoid inhalation of dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH-approved respirator for protection against nuisance dusts where airborne dust levels are excessive. Respirator usage must be in accordance with OSHA requirements (29 CFR 1910.134).

**Storage Requirements:** No special requirements

**Regulatory Requirements:** Follow applicable OSHA regulations

## SECTION 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

**Engineering Controls:** Provide general or local exhaust ventilation systems to maintain airborne concentrations as low as possible.

**Administrative Controls:** Avoid airborne dust.

**Respiratory Protection:** If this product is used as directed, respiratory protection is not required. Seek professional advice prior to respirator selection and use. Follow OSHA respirator regulations (29 CFR 1910.134) and, if necessary, wear a MSHA/ NIOSH-approved respirator. If respirators are used, OSHA requires a written respiratory protection program that includes, at least: medical certification, training, fit testing, periodic environmental monitoring, maintenance, inspection, cleaning, and convenient, sanitary storage areas.

**Protective Clothing / Equipment:** No special clothing is required.

**Comments:** Never eat, drink, or smoke in work areas. Practice good personal hygiene after using this material, especially before eating, drinking, smoking, using the toilet, or applying cosmetics.

## SECTION 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Physical State:** Powder

**Appearance and Odor:** Pale tan-colored clay powder with no odor

**Odor Threshold Range:** Unknown

**Vapor Pressure:** Unknown

**Water Solubility:** Not soluble

**Other Solubilities:** Unknown

**Boiling Point / Freezing Point / Viscosity:** Unknown

## SECTION 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Stability:** Stable at room temperature in closed containers under normal storage and handling conditions.

**Polymerization:** Hazardous polymerization cannot occur.



**Chemical Incompatibilities:** Unknown

**Conditions to Avoid:** Inhalation of dust

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** Unknown

## **SECTION 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Not believed to be toxic.

The Seventh Annual Report on Carcinogens (1994), prepared by the **National Toxicology Program (NTP)**, classified respirable crystalline silica (quartz) as a substance which may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen.

The **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** has classified respirable crystalline silica as a substance known to be carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).

The **State of California**, pursuant to Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, has listed "Silica, crystalline (airborne particles of respirable size)" as a material known to the State of California to cause cancer.

NIOSH considers silicone to be a potential occupational carcinogen.

## **SECTION 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**Ecotoxicity:** Unknown

**Environmental Fate:** Not expected to be significant

**Environmental Degradation:** Unknown

## **SECTION 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Waste Disposal:** Follow Federal, State, and local regulations.

## **SECTION 14. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

**DOT Transportation Data (49 CFR 172.101):** Not listed

## **SECTION 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**EPA Regulations:** Not listed

## **SECTION 16. OTHER INFORMATION**

General Hydroponics Rare Earth™ is an auxiliary soil and plant substance. Information assembled for this Material Safety Data Sheet is for the use of this product as intended by the manufacturer. Users should take all precautions recommended herein while working with this product.

General Hydroponics provides the information contained herein in good faith, but makes no representation as to its comprehensiveness or accuracy. This document is intended only as a guide to the appropriate precautionary handling of the material by a properly trained person using this product. Individuals receiving the information must exercise their independent judgment in using this product.

