



LAUNCHING YOUR

BioHaven

Wild Floating Island





Thank you for your purchase of a BioHaven Wild Floating Island. We are excited to have you join our family of “islanders”, committed to solutions above and below the waterline. While our islands are easy to launch and maintain, we offer this short guide to ease you through the process.



Step 1: Prepare



- A. Gather everything you will need: nylon anchor cord and anchor (optional), BioMix, plants or seeds. If you are planting sod, you will also need a serrated knife, metal landscape pins (available from any hardware store), landscape flags and joiner pins are optional. You may also need some small landscape rocks to adjust for buoyancy.

- B. Unless you are planting a very small island, place a tarp at the shoreline to work on and to assist with launching.



Step 2: Attach Anchor



A. Turn the island upside down, and tie the anchor cord to the anchor ring. Make sure the cord is long enough to reach bottom, allowing for variations in the water level.

B. Attach your anchor to the other end of the cord. Cinder blocks make ideal anchors and are readily available.

C. The best way to stabilize our smallest islands, and prevent them being overturned by turtles or frogs, is to join them together in attractive configurations using our joiner pins (C-1). You can attach the anchor cord either to the anchor ring of the biggest island, or to one of the joiner pins (C-2).

The anchor is optional. You may choose to leave your island free-floating, or you might alternatively anchor it to a point on the shore. This would enable you to pull it in for occasional maintenance.



Step 3: Add BioMix

- A. Turn the island right-side up. If it has wicking channels (small vertical holes), fill them with BioMix. (*Note: Some models do not have wicking channels.*)
- B. Push the BioMix firmly into the channels to eliminate any large air pockets. Leave a small amount of BioMix on top.
- C. Pocketed islands: If your island has bedding pockets, fill the pockets generously with BioMix, mounding it towards the center.

We recommend our specially-developed BioMix for two reasons: it can wick water up to a height of 7 inches; and its relatively light weight minimizes negative buoyancy.





Step 4: Covering Sod Islands

- A. Roll sod onto the island so that it is completely covered.

You can use the wicking channels as bedding pockets, cutting them larger if you wish. To track the position of the wicking channels while you're laying the sod use landscape flags.



- B. Place the sod in position, lift it slightly to find the wicking channel underneath.



- C. Mark the position with a flag poked into the sod.



- D. Trim the sod with a serrated knife so that there is roughly a three inch overlap; the sod should be flush with the waterline when launched.

The exposed foam is UV-sensitive so it must always be covered by either BioMix or sod.



- E. Use metal landscape pins to secure the sod onto the island – one pin every square foot is best.

Step 5: Planting



- A. If planting bedding plants, wash or shake any existing soil off the roots so that your plants are bare-rooted.
- B. Place your plants in the bedding pockets as you would in any planting bed. If planting with seed, simply press seed into the BioMix.
- C. Pat down the BioMix firmly. Like any garden, a newly planted island will give a less impressive display than a mature island in full bloom.
- D. If planting in wicking channels, cut around each flag to expose the wicking channel (D-1). Place the bedding plant in the wicking channel, making sure the roots are below the crown of the plant (the crown is where the plant stem and roots meet). (D-2)

Step 6: Launching



- A. Pick up the anchor, or place it on top of the island ready for launching. Push or lift your island into the water, or drag it in on the tarp.
- B. Carefully drop the anchor when the island is in place. Alternatively, you can wade (or row) out and drop the anchor in position, towing the island behind.
- C. The top edge of the island should sit 3 – 5 inches above the water. As a rule of thumb, if half the thickness is submerged your island is floating optimally. If it does not float evenly, or it rides too high, you can add evenly spaced rocks to the top of the island. *These can be removed in a week or so, after the plant roots have grown through to the water table.*



Step 7: Starting the wicking process

A. The bottom of the bedding pocket and the wicking channels must be in contact with the water so that water wicks up right through the BioMix. Confirm that the BioMix is appropriately damp - you may adjust buoyancy by adding or subtracting rocks at your discretion.

You do not need to water your BioHaven due to the wicking action of the BioMix.





Step 8: On-going maintenance

- For maintenance of your island you can row or wade out to it, or pull it back in to shore.
- We recommend you check periodically that water is getting to the plants and that they are not waterlogged - you may need to adjust the buoyancy by adding or removing rocks.

Otherwise, it is a personal choice whether you tend your island or allow it to grow naturally.



- Your island may occasionally float low in the water after rain. It will resume its normal position in a day or two.



- If you have any further questions, please refer to the FAQ section of our website: www.floatingislandinternational.com

