



Growing the Use of Green Roofs

Huntsman Polyurethanes has developed a polyurethane-based, lightweight foam, called VYDRO®, which serves as an ideal planting medium for green roof applications. The product has very high water-retention capacity, is 70 percent lighter than existing technologies and can absorb up to 30 times its weight in water.

Green roofs – those either partially or completely covered in vegetation – are on the rise as governments look for green solutions to combat climate change. Green roofs assist with water management, improve a building's insulating envelope, reduce the impact of urbanization, decrease the Urban Heat Island Effect (caused by the widespread use of heat-absorbing materials like concrete), improve biodiversity, counter urban sprawl and reduce building maintenance costs.

In green roof applications using Huntsman's VYDRO, the foam layer, which sits below the nutrient layer, captures, absorbs and retains rainfall, resulting in a ready source of water for plant roots. At 70 percent less weight than traditional technologies, VYDRO can be used in green roofs in applications where weight and structural strength are critical issues, as in older buildings.