



You need a PAR or quantum meter to read the micromoles of PAR from the bulb.

capacitor should be changed about every three bulb changes or 30,000 hours? Capacitors get weak over time. Heat and power fluctuations are the main reasons for capacitor failures.

Capacitors level out the current to the lamp, assuring a correct and steady voltage. As they get weak they get more resistance and release less energy to the bulb. This causes more heat to build up in the ballast and less light from the bulb. The capacitor is manufactured to swell up and break the connection when it finally fails. This swelling is like a fuse that breaks the circuit to prevent an open circuit from damaging more components.

Installing fixtures in the peak of a greenhouse with no ventilation can heat things up quick. It is not uncommon for a fixture running in a 130-140 degree F greenhouse peak to have an internal temperature at or above the 105 degree C capacitor max and cause failures.

Using remote ballasts to mount on sidewalls or in head houses is a useful way to keep the components cool and assure long life.

For further information you can contact P.L. Light Systems / Agrilight in Beamsville USA, (905) 563-4133 x. 236/ laura@pllight.com

This company does reflector and lamp testing for customers through its light care department. |||