



THE THREE  
BIGGEST MYTHS  
ABOUT MOVING YOUR LIGHT

BY NANCY HAMILTON

WE WERE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS MIGHT BE WITH LIGHT MOVERS, SO WE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE EXPERTS AT GUALALA ROBOTICS, THE MAKERS OF LIGHTRAIL, TO GET THEIR TAKE. HERE IS NANCY HAMILTON WITH THE THREE BIGGEST MYTHS SHE HEARS ABOUT MOVING LIGHTS.

**MYTH #1**  
LIGHT MOVERS SHOULD BE USED PRIMARILY TO COVER MORE AREA.

Although this is certainly a benefit, it should not be considered the most important reason for using a light mover. Better reasons include the significant advantages achieved by distributing light at a greater range of angles while at the same time, reducing shadow patterns. We know that as light travels from the bulb, its intensity diminishes. Light movers allow for closer plant-to-lamp tolerances while maintaining a good footprint from your light. When more of the plant is covered during the photo period at the correct intensity, the maximum light saturation point for green leaf photosynthesis is more easily achieved. In short, light movers are more about unleashing the power in your light than simply covering more distance.



A light mover installed in a greenhouse.

**MYTH #2**  
LIGHT MOVERS ONLY WORK FOR THE VEGETATIVE STAGE.

Purveyors of this myth usually also subscribe to Myth #1, but here's the deal. There's a limit as to how thin you can spread light before returns diminish. As a rule of thumb, 35 W per sq. ft. is about as skinny as you should go. If you break this rule, then you will have a difficult time and for you, Myth #2 will become true because as we all know, plants require less light intensity in the growth stage than they do to bloom. We recommend a run of 18 to 39 in., switch stop to switch stop, with a 35-second delay at the ends for that longer run. Now this brings us to a subset of Myth #2. Too many people believe that light movers should only be used in large spaces but not small gardens. Simply moving your light that minimum of 18 in. benefits your garden immensely and results in healthier plants and significant yield increases. And while we are all about light movers in smaller gardens, moving your lights in large, commercial spaces is just as important. The key is in imagining your larger area divided into those smaller sections of workable light moving space.

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**MYTH #3**  
LIGHT MOVERS ARE JUST TOO EXPENSIVE.

First, let's address why they cost what they do. Light movers are not static. They are dynamic, continuous-duty devices that operate in a harsh environment—the hot, dry ceiling directly above your grow light. They run back and forth, 12 to 18 hours per day and as many as 100,000 times per growth cycle. Anything less than instrument-grade, continuous-duty components will not stand up to this task. Of course, we can only speak to our own product, but we know by heart what it takes to deliver a dependable work horse. Next, although stationary grow lights are far more efficient today than they've been in the past,

inverse-square law has never changed. Because of this, as much as 50% of a stationary light is wasted because it lacks the ability to diversify itself by getting the best light to more of the plant. However, put any stationary light on a light mover and it begins to pay for itself instantly. It's an efficiency product and testing proves this out.

So let's do the math. If a light mover increases the efficiency of light that's only 50% efficient when stationary while covering 20% more area and is quality constructed and made to last year after year and crop after crop, what's too expensive? You can't afford not to do that. Simply put, moving your light is the single most important way to supercharge your light set-up. **MY**