



OUR PEAT-FREE POTTING MIX RECIPES

PEAT-FREE POTTING MIX – Result from our experiments. Over 200 small pots of plants were tested in all sorts of combination of potting mixes. Eventually we settled on the simplest mix that the plants grew well in.

The Wood chip can be recently chipped but should not have any leaves in. Broadleaf and Conifer chip such as Pine and Spruce work very well on all plants. Leylandii and Larch chip should be avoided.

For OutsideTubs – Shrubs and Trees

90% WOOD CHIP OR BARK + 10% soil loam (brown garden soil without roots) – Mix in 5 grams per litre of 18 month Osmocote (from ebay) – Other brands don't last as long. The 18 month fertiliser takes a few month to start working.

For Houseplants

100% WOOD CHIP OR BARK – Mix in 6 grams per litre of 8-9 month Osmocote (from ebay).

For specialist tropical plants requiring winter heat

90% WOOD CHIP OR BARK + 10 % Perlite – Mix in 5 grams per litre of 8-9 month Osmocote

For Cuttings – Vermiculite, Coir (or Perlite)

These are all sterile and have no nutrients to reduce fungal problems. Perlite will need more care as it dries out faster. Stick cuttings down side of pots to decrease chance of rotting.

For Seeds - Vermiculite

Sterile and has no nutrients, important for reducing fungi problems.

To conclude: The advantages of mixing your own potting compost are that it is a living compost packed with beneficial micro-organisms. It is far cheaper than commercial compost bags, the nutrients last longer using Osmocote and you are not contributing to destroying other country's natural habitats.

PLEASE START ASKING YOUR GARDEN CENTRE AND SUPERMARKET IF THEY HAVE ANY PEAT-FREE GROWN PLANTS – IF WE ALL CREATE THE PRESSURE, THEY WILL CHANGE.