



Growing Media: Mixes

Growing media mixes

Two groups of soil mixes are largely favored and used in the USA.

The University of California Soil Mix (C/- Professor Baker and colleagues). While there are up to thirty different composts, the following two are among the most useful:



UC Mix D: Mix 3:1 by volume Peat moss:Fine sand. Add either of the fertilizers

Compound	Fertilizer I (low inorganic nitrogen content)		Fertilizer II (low organic and inorganic nitrogen content)	
	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard
Hoof and Horn(13% N organic)			1.5 kg	2 lb. 8 oz
Potassium Nitrate	0.15 kg	4 oz.	0.15 kg	4 oz
Potassium Sulphate	0.15 kg	4 oz.	0.15 kg	4 oz
Superphosphate	1.2 kg	2 lb.	1.2 kg	2 lb.
Dolomite Limestone	3.0 kg	5 lb.	3.0 kg	5 lb.
Calcium Carbonate	2.4 kg	4 lb.	2.4 kg	4 lb.

Cornell Peat-Lite Mixes (C/- Professors Boodley and Sheldrake of Cornell University, New York). The Cornell Peat-Lite Mixes are a widely known loamless compost in the USA.

	Peat-lite Mix A: Mix 1:1 sphagnum peat:vermiculite by volume		Peat-lite Mix B: Mix 1:1 sphagnum peat:perlite by volume*	
	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard
Calcium or Potassium Nitrate	0.9 kg	1 lb. 8 oz.	0.9 kg	1 lb. 8 oz.
Superphosphate	0.6 kg	1 lb.	1.2kg	2 lb.
Ground Limestone	3.0 kg	5 lb.	3.0 kg	5 lb.
Fritted Trace Elements(FTE No. 503)	0.07 kg	2 oz.	0.07 kg	2 oz.

* Note: You must use potassium nitrate for the perlite mix as perlite has no potassium.

No slow-release fertilizers are added. Start liquid feeding 2-3 weeks after potting. If a complete NPK slow release fertilizer is required, 'Osmocote' 14-14-14 is used at the rate of 5 lb./cu.yd (3 kg/cu.m.).

The Cornell Peat-Lite mixes use a non-ionic wetting agent, three fluid ounces being added to 5-10 gallons of water for each cubic yard of mix (85 ml to 30-60/cu.m). Alternatively, the wetting agent can be added first to a small amount of vermiculite, which is then added to the bulk mix.

Two recent mixes for foliage and epiphytic plants.

	Cornell Foliage Plant Mix*		Cornell Epiphyte Mix®	
	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard	Per Cubic Meter	Per Cubic Yard
	2:1:1 by volume sphagnum peat: vermiculite (Grade No. 2): perlite (medium grade)		1:1:1 by volume sphagnum peat (screened .5 in. mesh): Douglas red or white fir bark (eighth in.-quarter in.): Perlite (medium grade)	
Potassium Nitrate	0.6 kg	1 lb.	0.6 kg	1 lb
Superphosphate	12 kg	2 lb.	2.7 kg	4 lb. 8 oz.
10-10-10 fertilizer	16 kg	2 lb. 8 oz.	1.5 kg	2 lb. 8 oz.
Dolomite Limestone	4.9 kg	8 lb. 4 oz.	4.2 kg	7 lb.
Iron Sulphate	0.4 kg	12 oz.	0.3 kg	8 oz.
Fitted Trace Elements	0.07 kg	2 oz.	0.07 kg	2 oz.

*For plants requiring high moisture

®For plants requiring good drainage and aeration and are able to withstand drying out between waterings.

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