

MISSISSIPPI STATE TRIAL GARDEN POTTING SOIL

BASIC LARGE CONTAINER MIX



INGREDIENTS

- 15 gal Composted Fine Pine Bark (Soil Conditioner)
- 5 gal Sphagnum Peat or Peat-based Bagged Potting Soil
- 3 cups Controlled Release Fertilizer (e.g. Osmocote[®], Nutricote[®])
- 1 ½ cups Dolomitic Lime (Garden Lime)
- ½ cup Micronutrient Fertilizer (e.g. Micromax[®])
- Water
- Wetting Agent (Optional)

DIRECTIONS



1. Break up clumps of sphagnum peat if using compressed bales.
2. Combine pine bark and sphagnum peat. If using a powdered wetting agent, add it now.
3. Add a small amount of water. Just enough to reduce dust during mixing. If using a liquid wetting agent, add it to this water.
4. Blend the pine bark and sphagnum peat until the mix looks uniform.
5. Add Fertilizer, lime, and micronutrients and mix until well blended and no clumps are present.
6. Add water slowly while mixing until the mix is moist, but not wet.
7. Transfer the mix to your container and shake the pot to settle. Avoid packing or tamping the mix.
8. Plant your selected plants into the container.
9. Top dress the pot with the appropriate amount of fertilizer for plants.
10. Water in your new transplants very well, but slowly. You want to water until water begins draining from the holes in the bottom of the pot.
11. If saving left over potting mix, read the comments to learn about the steps to use it later.

COMMENTS

- This mix is intended for large containers. Pots larger than 6" are what we consider "large".
- If the controlled release fertilizer you select has micronutrients included, you can exclude the additional micronutrient fertilizer.
- Other fertilizers can be used, but the amounts will need to be adjusted to deliver an equivalent amount of nutrients. **ONLY SLOW OR CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILIZER** should be used.
- The fertilizer mixed in is only a starter charge. You will need to **ADDITIONAL FERTILIZER** to ensure optimal plant growth.
- If you are growing plants that are acid lovers, reduce the amount of lime by half. Add only ¾ cup.
- If extra mix is saved for use later, it should be saved in a dry location. Make sure to water in **VERY WELL** immediately after planting. Irrigate until the water runs clear from the holes in the bottom of the pot. This will prevent salt damage. Water as normal from then on.
- References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended against other products that may also be suitable.

