

FOR PEAT'S SAKE

MAKING YOUR OWN PEAT-FREE POTTING COMPOST

Making your own potting compost is not as difficult as you might think, and means you create just the right mix for your pots and plants.

No more heaving of heavy bags from the garden centre, with excess plastic and transport miles. Not only are you saving money, but also the planet.

Follow our simple 'recipes' and you'll be peat-free and proud in no time!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Make different mixes for different purposes ie seed sowing, potting on etc.
2. Mix ingredients thoroughly.
3. Sieve homemade compost and loam for seed sowing.
4. Don't sow seeds or transplant seedlings straight into homemade garden compost. It will be too rich.
5. Add horticultural grit or sand to ensure good drainage if your soil is heavy.
6. Try out small quantities at first to see how your plants/seeds fare.
7. Feel free to experiment and alter the mixtures to find the best combination for your plants.



"PEAT BOGS ARE HOME TO A WEALTH OF RARE PLANT, INSECT AND BIRD SPECIES"



COMPOST RECIPES

SEED SOWING

Seeds contain their own nutrients so they will germinate successfully in a low nutrient potting mix. But it must have good drainage.

Recommended mix:

- 1 part loam (garden soil)
- 1 part leafmould
- 1 part horticultural sand

LARGE CONTAINERS

Plants growing for a long time in pots need a good source of slow-release nutrients. We recommend re-potting every few years, and adding a top dressing of compost annually.

Recommended mix:

- 1 part loam (garden soil)
- 1 part compost.

PLANTING HERBS

Mediterranean herbs such as sage, thyme, lavender and marjoram all need a well-drained soil. It is the wet, not the cold, that will kill their roots.

Recommended mix:

- 1 part loam (garden soil)
- 1 part home compost
- 1 part sharp sand or horticultural grit.

POTTING ON

Seedlings and young plants still need good drainage, but a little more nutrient (not too much, or they become leggy without finding their own strength).

Recommended mix:

- 1 part loam (garden soil)
- 1 part leafmould
- 1 part sieved homemade garden compost.

CUTTINGS

These need excellent drainage so their ends don't rot, and a fine textured medium to help the roots establish.

Recommended mix:

- 1 part horticultural sand
- 1 part homemade compost, sieved.

HANGING BASKETS & TOMATOES

Plants that flower continuously, and hungry vegetables such as tomatoes, aubergines and peppers, are fast growing and greedy. They need a rich mix which is full of nutrients.

Recommended mix:

- 3 parts loam
- 1 part manure (or homemade compost if you can't find manure)
- 1 part leaf mould.

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