

# Solutions

## Spotlight on Melcourt Growbark® Pine

**Growbark® Pine is one of Melcourt's biggest sellers. That's no surprise when you look at the sheer versatility of this product. Fine, free-flowing, low in pH and nutrients it is the perfect blank canvas onto which many different growing regimes may be applied.**

It is widely used by growing media manufacturers as a diluent for peat and peat alternatives – not only for environmental reasons but because it adds such an effective blend of resilient structure, aeration and moisture-holding capacity.

One of our more unusual applications is for the weaning of date palms. Director of Date Palm Developments in Somerset, Dr Avril Brackpool says, "After much trialling and testing we found that a blend of Melcourt Growbark® Pine with peat is the ideal medium for *ex-vitro* weaning of our micropropagated date palms. We need to achieve a difficult compromise between a medium that holds enough moisture to nurture our newly weaned plants and one which is sufficiently free draining to prevent rotting of this plant that thrives in the free draining soils of the Middle East. Having successfully weaned over half a million plants in the Growbark® Pine mix we are confident we have achieved that."

Melcourt Growbark® Pine is available in bags or loose bulk and as with all of our products we are able to offer sound technical back-up on its use, or advice on which growing media manufacturers offer products containing it.



### Superfood – super bark

We are all familiar with the rise of the superfood – tomatoes, goji berries, pomegranates... and of course blueberries – and although there is no official, scientific definition of what constitutes a superfood, there is no doubt that the tag can have a beneficial effect on price and sales.

Until recently blueberries were mostly imported into the UK, detracting some of the feel good factor, but increasingly it is becoming possible to buy a homegrown product. Melcourt has been instrumental in providing one of the ingredients for success. Blueberries require an acidic medium so for many growers planting in the soil is not an option. Also, when containerised the growing medium needs to be resilient enough to withstand several years without replacement – so it is no wonder that structurally sound, Melcourt Potting Bark™ has proved a real favourite. Being both acidic and very long-lasting in the pot it is the ideal basis of a blueberry mix, as the huge growth in sales has testified.



# Melcourt growers range product summary

At Melcourt we are proud of the level of customer support we offer. In-depth technical advice on any of our products is only a quick phone call away and our extensive website [www.melcourt.co.uk](http://www.melcourt.co.uk) can answer many questions.

If a quick check of particle size and main applications is all that is required, you may find the summary below useful.

Product	Particle size (mm)	Bark type	Principal uses	Approval
<b>Potting Bark™</b>	3 – 15	Pine chip	Use at 20 – 30% with peat to aid long term porosity Pot mulching 9cm and upwards	SA
<b>Propagating Bark™</b>	2 – 7	Pine chip	Use 50/50 with peat or coir for vegetative propagation Pot mulching smaller pots	SA
<b>Growbark® Pine</b>	0 – 5	Pine fines	Use at up to 80% for peat replacement or as an ingredient in peat free media	SA
<b>Growbark® Mixed Conifer</b>	0 – 6	Mixed conifer fines	Use at up to 80% for peat replacement or as an ingredient in peat-free media – a darker, softer, more composted product than Growbark Pine, and which holds slightly more moisture	SA FSC
<b>Sylvafibre®</b>	0 – 5	Pine wood fibre	Use at up to 60% for peat replacement or as an ingredient in peat free media	FSC
<b>Hortibark Pine®</b>	0 – 15	Pine	Use at up to 60% for peat replacement and to impart excellent structure to medium. Will provide longer term porosity than Hortibark® Mixed Conifer	SA
<b>Hortibark® Mixed Conifer</b>	0 – 12	Mixed-conifer bark	Use at up to 60% for peat replacement. Gives more porosity than Growbark as is coarser. Has been lightly screened so although it contains fines there are far fewer than in Growbark. Is very dark and composted	SA FSC
<b>Salad-Bag™</b>	0 – 5	Pine fines substrate	Mineral wool replacement in tomato and other salads production	
<b>Orchid Bark™ Medium</b>	3 – 15	Pine chip	A medium fine-free pine chip for use in orchid composts	SA
<b>Orchid Bark™ Coarse</b>	5 – 20	Pine chip	A chunky fine-free pine chip for use in orchid composts	SA

SA – These products are approved by the Soil Association for restricted use in organic systems.

FSC – These products are Forest Stewardship Certified. In brief they are made from sustainable sources and are part of a traceable chain of sustainable stewardship.

Remember, in addition to supplying top quality products we can also offer nursery visits and help with setting up trials.

## Come and see us at the shows

Our Growers Range will be on show and sales and technical advisors will be on hand, so come and say hello...

### Eastgro

5th August 2009  
John Woods Nurseries,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk

### Four Oaks

8th and 9th September  
nr Holmes Chapel, Cheshire

### Saltex

8th 9th and 10th September  
Windsor Racecourse, Berks.

### IPPS Conference

15th – 18th September  
Kilkenny, Ireland

### GLEE

20, 21, 22 September  
NEC Birmingham

### South West Regional Growers Show

Exeter 7th October

### Clydeside Trading Society Open Day

21st October

### Southern Growers Show

11th November  
Roundstone Nurseries, nr  
Chichester

### GAN Trade Show

10th February 2010  
Bournemouth

## Where to buy the Melcourt Growers Range

**Scotland**  
CIS  
Clydeside Trading Society  
tel: 01555 894151  
[www.clydesidetradingsociety.co.uk](http://www.clydesidetradingsociety.co.uk)

**Northern Ireland**  
Green-Tech Ltd  
tel: 02897 533122  
(0044 from S.Ireland)

**Ireland**  
Henry Alty Ltd  
tel: 01772 812176  
[www.altys.co.uk](http://www.altys.co.uk)

**North of England**  
GREEN-tech  
Landscape and Forestry Products  
Green-Tech Ltd  
tel: 01423 332100  
[www.green-tech.co.uk](http://www.green-tech.co.uk)

**BHGS Ltd**  
tel: 01386 444100  
[www.bhgsltd.co.uk](http://www.bhgsltd.co.uk)

**fargro**  
Fargro Ltd  
tel: 01903 721591  
[www.fargro.co.uk](http://www.fargro.co.uk)

**JFC Monro**  
tel: 01736 755766 • [www.jfcmonro.co.uk](http://www.jfcmonro.co.uk)

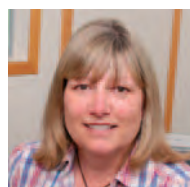
## Melcourt People



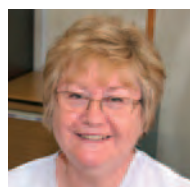
**Andy Chalmers**  
Sales & Marketing  
Director



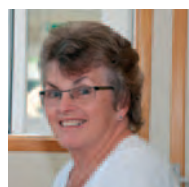
**Catherine Dawson**  
Research &  
Development  
Co-ordinator



**Elaine Rose**  
Sales  
Administration



**Cindy Dorrell**  
Finance & Credit  
Control



**Sue Atley**  
Office  
Administration



**Tom Eustace**  
Production &  
Distribution  
Manager

All of the above can be contacted by telephone on 01666 502711. Catherine Dawson's telephone number is 01223 301748.