

## Technical Information Melcourt Hortibark® - Pine - SA

### Product Description

A matured, European pine bark, designed for incorporation into peat-based or peat-free growing media, for the purpose of improving both air-filled porosity and long term structural stability.

- Produced from European pine bark
- Particle sizes in the range 0 - 15 mm
- pH 4.5 - 5.5
- Very low nutrient level
- Long lasting and resilient
- Pest, disease and weed free
- Toxin free
- Approved by the Soil Association (SA) as a Restricted Input for organic systems.
- Sold in 70 litre bags, bulk bags and in loose bulk



### Typical Crop Applications

- Nursery stock, containerized trees, conifers, pot plants, pot bedding, herbaceous perennials, alpiners, tubs and hanging baskets, interior landscaping, street planters etc.

### User Benefits

- The natural durability and stability of pine bark make it the ideal growers' bark
- Promotes strong, active rooting by providing high air-filled porosity
- Reduces winter losses caused by water logging of the root zone
- Enables up to 45% less peat to be consumed
- Suitable for ericaceous and non-ericaceous subjects due to low pH
- Allows complete flexibility of fertilizer additions due to low inherent nutrient content
- The incorporation of Melcourt Hortibark® - Pine can give a measure of pathogen suppression, as has been demonstrated in ADAS/HDC trials with similar materials. Significant control of Fusarium wilt in cyclamen has been identified. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the phenomenon exists for other pathogens, including Botrytis and Pythium
- Ideal for use in direct sticking media
- Excellent as an additive to a wide range of peat alternatives

### How to use

- Melcourt Hortibark® - Pine should be incorporated at levels of between 20 and 45% by volume with either peat, or its alternatives. Generally the higher the percentage, the more open and free-draining the mix will be.
- Blends easily with other growing media ingredients whether mixing is by hand or machine. It has a very resilient structure, but as with all compost mixing, it is important not to over-mix, as this can easily break down the structure of peat.
- Grit should only be added to the compost mix if it is required for ballast, at levels not exceeding 10% of the total compost volume. It should only be added towards the end of the mixing time, in order to reduce its destructive effect on compost structure.
- No additional fertilizer or lime is required, other than supplementary nitrogen in some cases. See [Guidance Notes](#).



### Contact

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# Melcourt Hortibark® - Pine - SA

## Crop Management

- Addition of Melcourt Hortibark® - Pine does not require any changes to the normal regime of crop management, although as the growing medium may have a more open texture, some users may find that slightly more watering is required.

## Direct Sticking

- Use up to 35% in a mix with peat or suitable alternative. No alterations to normal fertilizer additions or supplementary nitrogen are necessary.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Main Constituent	Origin	Nominal Particle Size Range	Wood Content	Dust & Fines <1mm
Pine Bark	European	0 - 15 mm	< 5 %	20 %

pH	Typical Bulk Density Range	Moisture Content by weight as received	Air-Filled Porosity
4.5 - 5.5	300 - 340 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	45 %	40 %

Electrical Conductivity	Plant Available Nutrient Content	Requirement for Supplementary Nitrogen	Soil Association Approved
100 µS/cm	negligible	yes, except ericaceous subjects	Yes

All values given in the Technical Specification are typical. However, some variation may occur from time to time. Melcourt Industries Ltd reserves the right to alter the specification without notice, for the purpose of product improvement.

## SUGGESTED PRODUCT USES

Product Applications		Crop Types	
Peat Replacement	Potting Large Pot Sizes	Bedding Plants	Herbs
Propagation Open or Plug Trays	Overwintering Several Seasons	Pot Bedding	Ericaceous & Salt-sensitive
Direct Sticking	Pot Mulching	Pot Plants	Hanging Baskets, Tubs and Troughs
Hardwood Cuttings	Organic Composts	Nursery Stock	Street Planters
Seed Composts	Plunge Beds	Specimen Trees & Shrubs	Interior Landscaping
Liners	Border Soils	Conifers	Vegetable & Forest Transplants
Potting Standard Pot Sizes	Organic Border Soils	Herbaceous Perennials	Strawberries
Strawberry Pot Culture	Bulb Fibre	Bulbs	Organic Crops
		Alpines	