Technical Information
Melcourt Potting Bark ™ - SA

Product Description

A matured, European pine bark chip, mid to dark brown in colour, with virtually no fines, designed for incorporation into peat-based or peat-free growing media, to improve both air-filled porosity and long term structural stability.

Also an excellent pot mulch to suppress weed, moss and liverwort growth.

- Virtually fine free, particles predominantly in the range 3-15 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

How to use

- Melcourt Potting Bark™ should be incorporated at levels of between 20 and 40% by volume with either peat, or its alternatives. Generally the higher the percentage, the more open and free-draining the mix will be.
- Melcourt Potting Bark™ blends easily with other compost ingredients whether mixing is by hand or machine. It has 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 is required, other than supplementary nitrogen in some cases. See Guidance Notes.

User Benefits

- The natural durability and stability of pine bark make it the ideal growers' bark
- Promotes strong, active rooting
- Considerably reduces winter losses caused by water logging
- Because virtually all fines have been removed, the entire product contributes substantially to improving air-filled porosity
- Up to 20% less Melcourt Potting Bark™ is required in the compost compared to other manufacturers' products, which include fines, to achieve the same improvement to air-filled porosity. See The Cost of Efficiency of Melcourt Grower Barks
- Can be used on all types of standing out area, including sand beds, gravel and capillary matting
- Enables up to 40% less peat to be used in the mix
- Suitable for ericaceous and non-ericaceous subjects due to low pH
- Allows complete flexibility of fertilizer additions due to low inherent nutrient content
- Imparts long-lasting stability to compost
- The incorporation of Melcourt Potting Bark™ can give a measure of pathogen suppression, as has been demonstrated in ADAS/HDC trials, where 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

Contact

Melcourt Industries Limited, Boldridge Brake, Long Newnton, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. GL8 8RT
Tel: +44 (0)1666 502711 Fax: +44 (0)1666 504398 Email: mail@melcourt.co.uk
Web Site: www.melcourt.co.uk

Melcourt Potting Bark ™ - SA

Typical Crop Applications

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

Crop Management

- The addition of Melcourt Potting Bark™ does not require any changes to the normal regime of crop management, although as the compost mix will have a more open texture, some users may find that they require slightly more watering.

Direct Sticking

- Use up to 30% in a mix with peat or suitable alternative. No alterations to normal fertilizer additions or supplementary nitrogen are necessary.

Pot Mulching

- To suppress the incidence of moss, liverwort and weed growth, spread an even layer of Melcourt Potting Bark™ at a depth of 1-3 cms depending on pot size, on the clean surface of the compost, just after potting.
- This product can also be used to improve the appearance of retail trees and shrubs, when applied to the clean compost surface just prior to despatch.
- See Pot Mulch section for further details

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Main Constituent	Origin	Nominal Particle Size Range	Wood Content	Dust & Fines <1mm
Pine Bark	European	3 - 15 mm	< 3 %	< 3 %

pH	Typical Bulk Density Range	Moisture Content by weight as received	Air-Filled Porosity
4.5 - 5.5	290 - 330 kg/m^3	53 %	62 %

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	
Peat Replacement	Overwintering Several Seasons
Direct Sticking	Pot Mulching
Hardwood Cuttings	Organic Composts
Liners	Plunge Beds
Potting Standard Pot Sizes	Border Soils
Potting Large Pot Sizes	Orchid Culture
Blueberry Production	

Crop Types	
Pot Bedding	Herbs
Pot Plants & Alpines	Ericaceous & Salt-sensitive
Specimen Trees & Shrubs	Hanging Baskets, Tubs and Troughs
Nursery Stock	Street Planters
Conifers	Interior Landscaping
Herbaceous Perennials	Strawberry Pot Culture
Bulb Fibre	Orchids
Blueberries	

Melcourt®
Proven • Safe • Sustainable