

Guidance notes for professional growers

Sylvamix

It is recommended that Melcourt Sylvamix[®] is used within 6 months of purchase. However, if you have specified certain additives listed below, shorter use-by dates apply. Where such restrictions are in place Melcourt cannot take responsibility for the performance of the product outside these use-by recommendations.

Please note that Melcourt Sylvamix[®] naturally has an above-ambient temperature following manufacture. Extensive investigations have shown that the heat disperses very quickly on removal from the bulk bag, maxi-bale or pile, and that no detrimental effects take place within the mix or with any ingredients.

Osmocote[®]

The manufacturer of Osmocote advises that a growing medium into which Osmocote has been added should be used within 21 days of incorporation. Full details and safety data sheets for Osmocote can be found at: <https://icl-sf.com/uk/explore/nursery-stock-perennials-pot-bedding-plants/osmocote-controlled-release-fertilizers/>

Pesticide

Please note that any pesticides added to Melcourt Sylvamix[®] are solely at the request and specification of the grower customer. It is the legal responsibility of the customer to be aware of the appropriateness of the chosen pesticide, the restrictions and the safety advice given on the pesticide label.

Met52[®]

The label recommendations for Met52 indicate that the product should be used within 30 days of blending into a growing medium. Please read the full safety and handling advice on the Met52 Product Label which can be found at <http://www.fargro.co.uk/products/agrochemicals/met52/met52.asp> We particularly draw your attention to the Technical Update published in January 2014.

Exemptor[®]

The label recommendations for Exemptor indicate that the product should be used within 4 weeks of blending into a growing medium. If you are ordering Sylvamix Special with Exemptor we strongly advise you to read the full label, safety and handling advice which can be found at: https://icl-sf.com/uk-en/products/ornamental_horticulture/exemptor/

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries.

Bulk Deliveries of Growing Medium Ingredients

Some products in the Grower's Range may become warm when stacked in large piles, particularly in enclosed situations. It is therefore recommended that the pile height is kept as low as possible in order to reduce the likelihood of heating.

Compost Mixing

Once the bark has been incorporated into a growing medium, some heating may occur if the mix is stacked into a large pile. Although this is unlikely to cause any harm if used within a few days, the effect can be lessened by ensuring that the bark is cool before it is blended with other materials. It is recommended that the compost is used soon after being freshly made, particularly if controlled-release fertilizers have been incorporated.



Supplementary Nitrogen

When growing medium ingredients from the Melcourt Growers' Range are incorporated into composts, no special nutrient additions are required other than in some cases the addition of a small amount of supplementary nitrogen. It has been proven that an addition at the time of compost mixing is all that is required to counteract the effect of any nitrogen lock-up.

The following rates of nitrogen, in the form of calcium ammonium nitrate, which is available from any horticultural supplier, are recommended:

	Summer	Winter
Standard non-ericaceous stock	Up to 1.0 gram/litre to a maximum of 500g per cubic metre of finished mix.	Up to 0.5 grams/litre to a maximum of 250g per cubic metre of finished mix.
Ericaceous/salt sensitive stock	Up to 0.5 grams/litre to a maximum of 250g per cubic metre of finished mix.	nil

The rates in this table refer to the grams of calcium ammonium nitrate to be added PER LITRE OF BARK used in the mix. As the amount is so small it is recommended that the calcium ammonium nitrate is first diluted with water, which ensures better distribution within the mix. For example, a 25 % addition of Melcourt Potting Bark, ie 250 litres per 1000 litre (1 cubic metre) of mix, would require up to 250 grams of calcium ammonium nitrate, for a non-ericaceous summer mix.

Calcium nitrate can also be used in place of calcium ammonium nitrate, in which case the rates can be doubled.

Liability

Growing medium ingredients in the Melcourt Growers' Range are designed to be used as ingredients in growing media or as pot mulches. They have been tested over a wide range of conditions during many seasons. However, as Melcourt has no control over the circumstances surrounding the use of the products, the company cannot accept liability for every eventuality. If in doubt, it is recommended that the proposed method of use is first discussed with one of Melcourt's technical staff.