

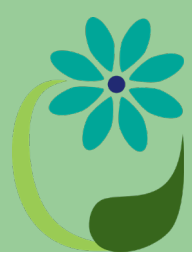
Compost



Compost is organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Compost is a key ingredient in organic farming.

Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used in gardens, landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture. The compost itself is beneficial for the land in many ways, including as a soil conditioner, a fertilizer, addition of vital humus or humic acids, & as a natural pesticide for soil.

Composting organisms require four equally important ingredients to work effectively:
Carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, water



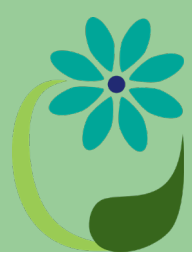
Vermiculite



Vermiculite was known since 1824 when it was experimented with in Massachusetts. The largest vermiculite mining operation in the world is in South Africa. Other countries producing vermiculite include the U.S., China, Russia, Brazil, Japan, Zimbabwe, and Australia.

The term **vermiculite** applies to a group of minerals characterized by their ability to expand into long, worm-like strands when heated, a process called exfoliation.

When added to the garden or to potting soil, vermiculite increases water and nutrient retention and aerates the soil, resulting in healthier, more robust plants. Vermiculite, although less aerating than perlite, is the amendment of choice for water-loving plants.



Perlite

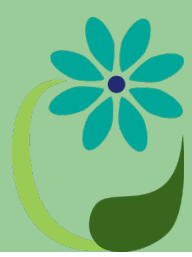


Perlite is a volcanic glass that is heated to 1,600F and pops much like popcorn and expands to 13 times its former size, resulting in an incredibly lightweight material.

Perlite is a non-renewable resource, mostly produced by Greece , U.S., Turkey and China.

Perlite is used to improve soil, keeping it loose, well-draining and defying compaction. Perlite is also great for rooting cuttings because it can be sterilized.

While both perlite and vermiculite aid in water retention, perlite is more porous and tends to allow water to drain much more readily than vermiculite & lightens soil.

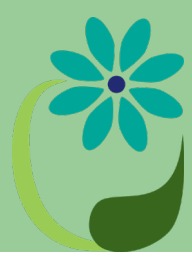


Coconut Coir



Coconuts are made by tropical trees with a huge spongy husk around the round coconut seed. People collect the husk to make “coir”, and use it as an organic and sustainable amendment to soil. It is replacing peat moss, which is not sustainable since harvesting it from marshes destroys wildlife habitat. Coconut coir is better for the planet than peat moss.

Coir is light and fluffy and very good at absorbing water, like a sponge. It is used in more sustainable gardening and agriculture. It makes soil lighter and keeps it from compacting, while adding a valuable water-absorbing quality. Coir has long been used to line hanging baskets in a fibrous mat & is very versatile.



Peat



Peat is a landmass formed in wetlands by the breakdown of plants, usually moss and grasses.

Peat is harvested as an important source of fuel in countries such as Ireland. It is mostly water and produces a heavy, sooty smoke when burned.

Peat contains minerals from the water and soil. The actual composition of peat varies by the region.

Peat can be found in Northern US, Canada, Northern Europe, New Zealand. Indonesia has the most tropical peat land than any other country, but it is losing its wetlands at 250,000 acres a year.