



## 'I Don't Dig Peat' compost recipes

**Avoid peat altogether and try mixing your own. Try one of our compost recipes for seed sowing, seedlings and potting on plants, and see which one works best for you. See our 'Going peat-free: what you can use' download for more information before you get started.**

### Seed sowing mix

Good consistency, giving excellent germination. Will support young plants until transplant time.

#### Ingredients:

- Mature leaf mould
- No additives

### Potting on mix

Long-term potting mixtures should carry a lot of nutrients to help the plant over the course of its life.

#### Ingredients:

- 3 parts leaf mould
- 1 part worm compost

### Seed sowing

Good mix for most seeds. Should maintain plants until time to transplant.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 parts sieved garden compost
- 1 part leaf mould
- 1 part loam
- 1 part sand or grit

### Potting on mix

- Nutrient rich
- Excellent structure

#### Ingredients:

- 1 part garden compost
- 1 part loam
- 1 part leaf mould
- 1 part sand or grit

### Pricking out/seedling mix

Seedlings should be given a more nutrient-based compost for an extra boost.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 part loam
- 1 part leaf mould

### Potting on mix

Nutrient rich. For plants that will stay where they are for the long term.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 buckets loam
- 2 buckets leaf mould
- 225g (8oz) seaweed meal
- 110g (4oz) bonemeal
- 85g (3oz) hoof and horn



I DON'T  
DIG  
PEAT



garden  
organic

## Avoid peat and make your own mix – hints and tips

**Plants in pots and containers need special potting mixes to grow well. Soil on its own isn't enough, as the small volume used in pots doesn't provide all of the right benefits, such as nutrients.**

### Different compost mixes for different uses:

#### Seed sowing

- Low nutrient levels.
- Seeds contain their own supply of nutrients to get them going. A mix that is too rich can prevent germination.
- Seedlings sown in this mix will need potting on as they start growing.

#### Potting on

- Medium nutrient levels.
- Seedlings that are going to be planted out into the ground, or into a larger pot, need nutrients to keep them going for a few weeks at most. You will want sturdy young plants, so don't make the mix too rich.

#### Growing on

- Higher nutrients.
- Plants that are going to stay in their pot for an entire growing season or more need a longer lasting supply of nutrients. These nutrients can be supplied by various slow release organic fertilisers or richer materials, such as composted animal manures.

#### Cuttings

Cuttings need a mix with very good drainage so they don't rot, plus some nutrients for early growth.

#### Top tips

The ideal mix should...

- Provide nutrients appropriate for the type of plant
- Provide nutrients appropriate for the length of time the plant will be growing in it
- Retain moisture, but drain well
- Retain air, yet hold plant roots firmly
- Be uniform in consistency, e.g. no large lumps, etc
- Be free from pest, disease and weed seeds

The ideal mix should not...

- Reduce in volume, leaving pots, trays and containers half empty
- 'Slump', becoming compact and airless
- Dry out quickly and be difficult to 're-wet'
- Become drained of nutrients very quickly or be too rich for young seedlings

#### Keep experimenting

Getting a seed or potting mix just right can be difficult and the results variable. Make small quantities of simple mixes and try them out. Remember that different mixes have different watering needs, which may be more or less frequent than you are used to.