

# enviromix

## Storage & Use of Potting Mix

When the media is delivered it is important to have a special place prepared to hold the media before using.

Storage of Media: "extract from The Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia".

The media needs to be stored in facilities which effectively prevent infestation or reinfestation of root rot organisms. As such, all media and media components which are already treated, or do not need treatment are to be stored on surfaces and in areas which both shed and exclude runoff water and exclude contamination by possible contaminated materials. Alternatively media can be stored in bins, trailers and trolleys. Different batches of media should be stored separately to avoid possible cross contamination. All storage surfaces must be suited to easy cleaning between batches. Where the possibility of disease risk occurs, the site must be checked for the presence of soil borne plant pathogens. Storage areas for approved and/or treated media must be effectively separated from areas used to store possible contaminated media".

Storage:

If the media is not going to be used immediately flatten the pile out to a maximum height of 1 metre or less. This helps to prevent re-heating of the potting media and will help to keep it cooler. Do not cover the media with black plastic or other plastic as this will increase heat in the media. If wind is a problem cover with shade cloth that will breath, wetting from rain is not generally a problem.

Moisture is important:

Ensure that the media does not dry out! Maintain moisture to a level where if you take a handful of media and squeezed it firmly in the hand, water should not run out, the media should stay in a solid block, if it breaks out in a crumbly way add water turning media to ensure even moisture. Before potting always check to ensure that the media is thoroughly moist as getting sufficient water into very dry mixes after potting can be difficult. When potting do not over fill the pot, leave space at the top of the pot to create a reservoir to hold some water.

Note: Potting media research has shown that the addition of a good wetting agent greatly assists wettability of the mix and air filled porosity.

Planting into Potting Media

It is not recommended to be potting when the temperature exceeds 32° as the heat causes considerable stress to the transplants. Avoid plant stress by potting early in the day before temperatures rise too high or put off potting to a cooler day. At all times after potting ensure watering is monitored very closely for the first ten to fourteen days or until the new root systems are established. Remember to water early and late to avoid water scold from overhead water in the heat of the day.

Before potting carry out moisture test. Moisture is Important

Tube preparation before potting:

If the tubes need trimming do so two to three weeks before transplanting to allow time for the plants to start to make new growth. If trimming condition the plant by applying a liquid feed to simulate root and new growth do not over do this process and change hard dormant old plants to soft rapid growing plants. Preferably move plants to be potted to a similar environment to the area they will be potted into to condition them to there new home, particularly if they are going from propagation area's right out into the open in extreme weather of hot or cold. Applying a liquid wetting agent to tubes that are going to be potted 5 to 7 days before potting will help ensure that the tube root ball will accept water easily after potting.

Water in Thoroughly at Potting

Immediately after potting, water the plant in by watering until water flows freely from the bottom of the pot (e.g. 5% of the total pot volume running to waste). This leaching will remove any build up of fertilizer that could have occurred through storage. After handling and transporting the plant to the growing area water again to settle the plant.

HEALTH WARNING

- Potting media contains micro-organisms that may be harmful to your health
- Avoid breathing dust or mists
- Wear gloves and keep product moist when handling
- Wash hands immediately after use

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