

Potting Soil Recipes

I usually use a wheelbarrow to mix my potting soil. The key is to “not get in a hurry if you run out and then just throw stuff together. Take the time and pay attention to the recipe so you can create the balance the seeds need.



Seedling mix

2 parts compost
2 part peat moss or coir
1 part perlite

Peat based (large quantity) Because there is no compost in this recipe, you have to add in the nutrients. This one is good for late winter starts when your compost pile is frozen.

1/2 cu. yd. Sphagnum peat or coir
1/2 cu. yd perlite
10 lbs. bonemeal
5 lbs. ground limestone
5 lbs. bloodmeal

Soil Based This is the one I use. Because it calls for topsoil and compost, I always screen it first.

1/4 mature compost
1/4 garden topsoil
1/4 sharp sand
1/4 perlite or vermiculite

Nurtrious mix for growing seedlings to transplant size

6 parts compost
3 parts soil
1-2 parts sand
1-2 parts aged manure
1 part peat moss, pre-wet and sifted
1-2 parts leaf mold, if available
1 6" pot bone meal

The following recipe is credited to Eliot Coleman.

Organic potting mix

1 part sphagnum peat or coir
1 part peat humus (short fiber)
1 part compost
1 part sharp sand (builder's)

to every 80 qts. of this add:

1 cup greensand
1 cup colloidal phosphate
1 1/2 to 2 cups crabmeal, or bloodmeal
1/2 cup lime