512 Mix
Instructions

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512 Mix is a complete, compost-based growing medium for soil blocks, trays, and small containers. It is a custom blend of mature compost, black humus peat, sphagnum peat, fish meal, seaweed meal, and perlite. No chemical fertilizers or wetting agents are added.

Neither the peat nor the compost used in the 512 Mix is sterilized, but the formulation is suitable for most horticultural growing purposes. Growers requiring a strictly sterile mix, however, should heat-sterilize this product before use.

SEED STARTING

1. For filling cell trays or pots: Do not pre-moisten the 512 mix. Fill with 512 mix and gently shake so the medium settles. Do not press to firm.
2. For making soil blocks: Moisten the mix; the soil should be moist enough to hold shape but not so moist that it releases water when squeezed.
3. Sow the seeds, covering with additional moistened mix or vermiculite as appropriate.
4. Mist the surface as needed to keep the surface moist until emergence of seedlings. After emergence, water as needed, but only when the mix is almost dry, to avoid over-watering.
5. If required, transplant young seedlings to larger or individual containers filled with 512 Mix.
6. Begin using a soluble fertilizer after 6–8 weeks, or when the plant appears to need additional fertilization. 512 Mix should supply enough nutrients for seedlings to grow to transplant size without additional fertilizer, depending upon species and container size.

HOUSEPLANTS, BULBS, ORNAMENTAL CONTAINERS

1. Select a correctly sized pot for the species and plant size, with suitable drainage holes at its base.
2. Place a layer of 512 Mix in the pot.
3. Set the plant or bulb in the pot at an appropriate level for its size and species. Work more mix in, around, and above the root ball or bulb. Press to firm.
4. Water thoroughly.
5. Provide newly transplanted plants with a shady location for 2 days, then move to intended location.
6. Water when the soil mix is almost dry. After 6–8 weeks, water and fertilize according to container and plant size and cultural needs, using a soluble fertilizer.

USING 512 MIX WITH SOIL BLOCKERS

512 Mix can be used with Soil-block Makers to create blocks of growing medium that are lightly compressed and shaped, eliminating the need for plastic pots for transplanted seedlings. Compared to those grown in containers, seedlings grown in soil blocks develop stronger root systems that undergo less root disturbance when transplanted into the field, significantly reducing chance of transplant shock. For more information, see the Soil-Block Making section of our website.

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NUMBER OF POTS, FLATS & TRAYS FILLED PER BAG

512 Mix is not compressed. The following table provides approximate figures for the number of pots, flats, or trays that each bag can fill.

	20 qt.	60 qt.
Cubic inches of mix	1344	4032
4-inch pots		
	35	106
Plug Flats		
288 cells*	9	28
200 cells*	8	26
128 cells	6	17
72 cells	5	14
50 cells	4	14
Pro-Trays†		
72 cells	6	18
38 cells	5	15
24 cells‡	7	21

* Further screening the mix may be desirable for use in high cell-count flats; a loss of approximately 10–15% of the mix volume should be anticipated, depending on screen gauge.
† Pro-Trays have cylindrical cells that hold a smaller volume than the quadrangular cells of plug flats.
‡ 24-cell Pro-Trays have cylindrical cells that are spaced further apart for greater leaf development.

COMPLETE INGREDIENT LIST FOR 512 MIX

- Mature Compost
- Dark humus peat
- Sphagnum peat
- Perlite
- Fish meal
- Seaweed meal

512 Mix is approved for use in organic production in the state of Maine through the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA).

01.14.2025 | GB, ld, hc

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