



John Innes Composts

The John Innes range of loam-based composts developed at the John Innes Horticultural Research Institute have been widely used by gardeners for over 60 years with continued popularity. Today they comprise a range of composts which give consistently reliable results when growing in pots. These potting composts have never been produced commercially at the Institute, but the formulae were made public and are now used by many manufacturers and growers.

John Innes Composts are a blend of carefully selected loam or topsoil, sphagnum moss peat, coarse sand or grit and fertilisers. The loam is screened and sterilised and then thoroughly mixed with the other ingredients in proportions designed to achieve the optimum air and water-holding capacity and nutrient content for different types and sizes of plants.

- JI Seed Compost - the traditional mix for sowing almost any type of seed, with sufficient nutrient for early development. May also be used for rooting soft cuttings.
- JI Potting Compost No.1 - for pricking out or potting-up young seedlings or rooted cuttings. This compost has a carefully balanced nutrient content to suit most young plants.
- JI Potting Compost No.2 - for general potting of most house plants and vegetable plants into medium size pots or boxes. Contains double the amount of nutrient in JI No 1 to suit established plants.
- JI Potting Compost No.3 - a richer mixture for final re-potting of gross feeding vegetable plants and for mature foliage plants and shrubs in interior planters or outdoor containers.
- JI Ericaceous Compost- A specially formulated sterilised loam-based, lime-free compost with essential plant foods for most lime-hating subjects, such as Azaleas, Heathers and Rhododendrons.

Why Use John Innes Compost?

John Innes Composts mean easier management and better plant growth particularly for:-

- Bedding plants and vegetable seedlings
- Tomatoes, cucumbers and melons
- House plants and interior planters
- Tubs, troughs, patio planters and window boxes.

John Innes Composts are loam-based - a natural medium for growing plants. Loam contains clay, humus and trace elements which provide a natural reserve of plant foods and also an excellent buffering capacity - so that it can cope with some degree of over- or under-feeding of the plants.

Loam, peat and coarse sand provide a good balance between the amount of water held by the compost and the amount of air space after it has drained. It is easier to achieve this when three main ingredients are utilised, than when the compost is made from only one material such as peat.

The loam and coarse grit content makes John Innes Compost very easy to re-wet after drying out, compared with all-peat composts.



The pH level of John Innes Composts is at the natural level for most plants, except the lime-hating varieties such as Azaleas, Heathers and Rhododendrons.

Because of the loam content in John Innes Composts, the fertiliser levels can be increased to suit the vigour or growth rate of the plant, which would not be safe in peat-based composts.

John Innes Composts last for a longer time than soil-less composts before it becomes necessary to water and feed plants in pots or containers.

With both short and long term fertiliser release, natural drainage and water retention, a John Innes Composts has greater tolerance and gives the amateur gardener better all round results than soil-less composts.