

AgroCoir® success in ORGANIC PRODUCTION

AgroCoir is one of the best possible components for organic growing. It is all natural organic matter derived from the husks of Mexican coconuts which are low in sodium and very rich in potassium. This sustainable fibrous product is milled and screened for each horticultural application. AgroCoir is resistant to excess compaction and decay making it an excellent component in natural conditions. The ability to absorb and release water provides moisture reserves for less frequent watering thus lowering disease activity. Organic growers report that incorporation of 30% or more AgroCoir in a blend gives disease suppression and provides improved water management properties which help in organic plant production, and performance.

ORGANIC PRODUCTION BLENDS

AgroCoir is used in these three basic ways by organic plant growers. Modifications can be made to suit a specific application.

1. ADDING TO PREPARED BLENDS

Simply add 2 parts AgroCoir to 3 parts of your favorite prepared blend (giving a 40% AgroCoir blend) and mix thoroughly before filling your containers. Adding some additional water (1 to 2 quarts per cubic foot) before mixing helps improve blend texture and maintain air porosity. Additional nutrient supplies are also often incorporated. (For example 2 to 4 lbs./Cu.Yd. of dehydrated manure.)

2. BLENDING WITH BARK/COMPOST

A suggested peat and coir blend for organic production.

- 50% AgroCoir
- 50% Bark or Compost (pH adjusted)
- 2 to 3 lbs./Cu.Yd. Gypsum
- 3 to 5 lbs./ Cu.Yd. dehydrated poultry manure
- 10 to 15 gallons water

Combine components and mix thoroughly until uniformly blended. Do not over mix.

3. USING 100% COIR

- 1 cubic yard AgroCoir
- 3 to 5 lbs. of dehydrated poultry manure
- 3 to 5 lbs. gypsum
- 10 to 15 gallons of water

Combine components and add water and mix thoroughly until uniformly blended. Do not over mix.

Note: These formulations are intended only as a starting point. For the greatest success in your operation adjustments should be made to the blends.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Your AgroCoir blends are best used when freshly mixed. However, prepared mixes and pre-filled containers should be stored like other blends and should remain usable for many weeks when properly stored. The following suggestions will help maximize performance of your AgroCoir blends.

- Store in a clean dry area
- Do not over wet (saturate) the mix before storage
- Do not over compact moist blends
- Cover to avoid contamination
- Avoid contact by rodents and pests

WATER MANAGEMENT

AgroCoir blends have higher available water than sphagnum peat blends when saturated. They also have greater air porosity and increased drainage thus avoiding water logging and the diseases associated with wet substrates. When compost or other high salts components are incorporated into the blend it is important to water sufficiently to leach out excess salts during the early stages of the crop. When sufficient quantities of AgroCoir are incorporated drainage is excellent, excess watering is not a problem, and over saturation is greatly reduced. The substrate is naturally oxygenated. Use of a chemical surfactant (wetting agent) is not necessary in most production systems due to the hydrophilic nature of AgroCoir. In situations where water is limited AgroCoir absorbs water readily and evenly distributes even small quantities of water within the substrate. When crops dry down between watering the coir blends often take longer to reach wilt point due to the availability of more tightly held water.

FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

The naturally high potassium levels and moderate supplies of phosphorus provided in AgroCoir help to make nutrient management easy. When blends are prepared containing dehydrated poultry manure or other manures a supply of nutrients is readily available as long as sufficient aeration and good microbial environments are maintained. Flooding often limits the conversion of organic supplies of nutrients to plant available forms. Therefore good moisture management helps maintain good nutrition. Supplemental applications of soluble nutrient amendments are typically needed for long-term crops. Use rates vary considerably from product to product. It is always a good practice to try (on a small scale) the lower level recommended on the label until your experience warrants adjustments to rates.