

Peat-free composts need slightly different watering and feeding compared to the old peat-based composts.

Watering

They will drain quicker and the surface of the compost will feel dry even though they are holding onto water lower down. If you can lift the pot it will only need watering if it feels light. Otherwise stick your finger into the compost or use a water meter to see how moist it is lower down.

***Generally water less but more often**

Feeding

Seeds & Cuttings – use a special seed & cutting compost and once the first true leaves appear feed with a half strength solution of liquid feed if growing in cells or pots. If growing in a seed tray prick out individual plants into pots or cells filled with peat-free multipurpose compost which will have more feed available to your plants.

Growing in containers and pots -The water draining out will take nutrients with it, leaving the soil less rich in food. Use controlled-release fertiliser pellets or feed more often with liquid feed - little and often (as instructed on the packet). You might choose a liquid feed formulated for peat-free composts, again follow instructions on the packet.

Every days a school day!

Different peat-free composts have been made using different recipes, mixes may include coir, composted bark, wood, biomass.

***You may need to experiment a bit to get consistent good results, settling for your preferred compost and remembering the new feeding and watering regime that works best for you.**

All our bagged composts are PEAT-FREE

Which one is best for you?

You may have to change the way you water and feed using peat free composts. The surface of the peat free compost can feel dry while there is plenty of water lower down – a moisture meter can help you check. Compost with wood fibre drain quickly so regular liquid feeding or adding continuous release feed may be needed.

General purpose potting composts

Rocket Gro Multi-Purpose compost – based on composted green waste with added wood chip fines, pine bark fines and bracken. We find this very similar to the old peat based composts and slowly releases its food and holds water well. Water when top surface feels dry but avoid overwatering. Add liquid feed or continuous release pellets after 2 to 3 months.

Sylvagrow Multi Purpose compost – Based on composted bark with added wood fibre and coir, this is a tried and tested 'Rolls Royce' potting compost. Holds water and plant feed relatively well.

Miracle-grow Peat Free All Purpose Compost – Based on wood fibres and coir. Feeds for 3 months then add liquid Miracle Grow fertiliser or continuous release food tablets.

Westland Multi Purpose with added John Innes – based on shredded wood With added loam from the John Innes. Makes a heavier compost and good for Pots that will hold plants for a few years, but lighter than pure John Innes compost.



Special purpose composts

For Seeds & Cuttings – finer grade than multipurpose composts which is essential for smaller seeds.

Rocket Gro Seed & Cutting – based on composted green waste with added fine bark, fine wood fibre and coir.

John Innes Seed Sowing – based on loam, heavier than Rocket Gro. Try out which one suits you best.

Containers & Baskets – specially formulated with water retaining properties but multi-purpose composts can do this job too.

Westland Container and Basket

Compost – Includes water retaining granules and enough feed for 6 months, based on similar materials to the Westland M-P + John Innes compost.

Ericaceous compost – low ph for plants like Rhododendrons, Azaleas, blueberries, heathers, pieris and so on.

Rocket Gro Ericaceous – similar base to Rocket Gro Multi Purpose compost but with low ph suitable for ericaceous plants

John Innes Ericaceous – based on loam this is good for plants that will stay in the pot for a few years.

For general soil improvement – Don't use potting composts to improve your soil, they have been formulated specially for potting and are wasted as a soil improver.

Farm Yard Manure & Magic Mulch – both add fibre and feed. Use as mulch or dig into soil

Composted bark – adds essential fibre – mulch or dig in.