

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mica mineral of laminar structure which has been heated in a furnace to create exfoliated granules with a very high surface area and inter-laminar air space (like a concertina).

The inter-laminar air space provides a very high pore volume, typically 96% of total volume. As with Perlite, pores may be filled with air or water, depending on size.

The cation exchange properties of Vermiculite act as a nutrient buffer, releasing added nutrients to plants in a form they can easily assimilate. In addition Vermiculite naturally contains magnesium, iron and potassium which are available for plant growth.

Sinclair Vermiculite has a neutral pH of between 6.0 - 7.0, is chemically and biologically stable and is free from pests, weeds and diseases.

Benefits

- Eases re-wetting of growing media when it has dried out.
- Extends watering intervals.
- Improves growing media aeration.
- Acts as a nutrient buffer.
- The excellent insulation properties and ability to hold nutrients as well as air make it an ideal choice for seed composts.



Sinclair Vermiculite Fine

Granule size: 1.0 - 3.0mm Total water-holding capacity: 419 ml/litre
Useful for aiding the water management of peat composts as it retains water more strongly than peat, so extending watering intervals and making it easier to re-wet. The nutrient buffering complements this water buffering action. Can also be used as a seed covering.
Use at up to 50% by volume.



Sinclair Vermiculite Medium

Granule size: 2.0 - 5.0mm Total water-holding capacity: 381 ml/litre
Useful for improving aeration without impacting adversely on water capacity or water retention. It can also be used for seed covering.
Use at up to 50% by volume.



Sinclair Vermiculite Coarse

Granule size: 5.0 - 10.0mm Total water-holding capacity: 322 ml/litre
Useful when higher aeration levels are required without impacting adversely on water capacity or water retention.
Use at up to 50% by volume.

How to Use

Seed Germination

Use Fine Vermiculite mixed with seed composts at a rate of up to 50%.
This will aid aeration, improve water-holding capacity and speed up germination times.
Vermiculite can also be used on its own to cover seeds once sown.

Rooting Cuttings

Use Medium Vermiculite mixed with peat-based growing media at a rate of 10-25% to aid aeration and improve water-holding capacity.

It is particularly useful for soft-wood cuttings and leaf cuttings of many gesneriads and begonias.

Hard to root shrubs, including some magnolias and rhododendrons, can be rooted in a 50/50 mixture of Vermiculite and Perlite.

Potting Compost

Use Medium or Coarse Vermiculite mixed with peat-based substrates at a rate of 20-25% to improve aeration and aid water-holding capacity.

Vermiculite also helps to absorb excess nutrients and improves re-wetting.