



**Practical advice and tips for  
improving crop establishment in  
peat-free growing media**

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# What I will cover

- **Management of input plant material**
- **Improvements in the potting process**
- **Aftercare of crops after potting/planting**
- **Crop protection inputs**



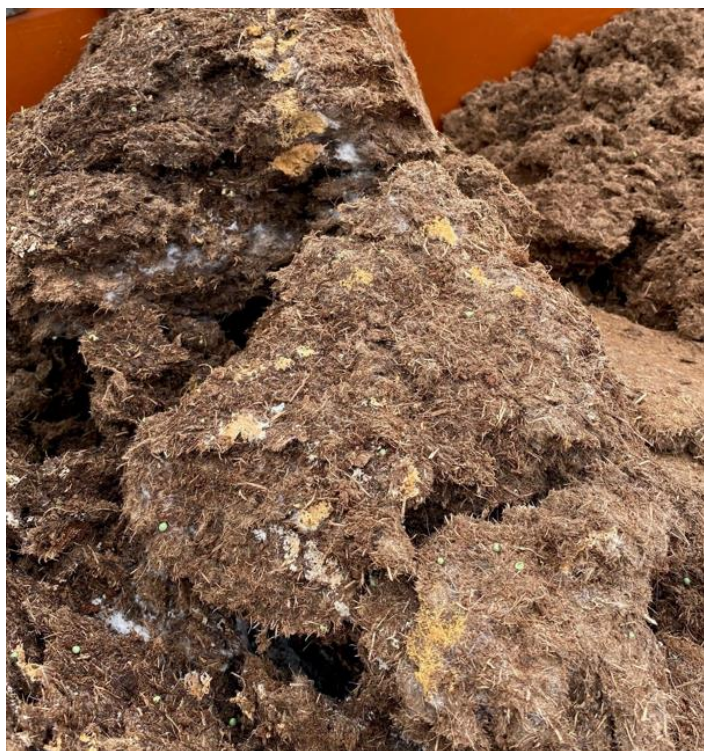
# Management of input plant material

- Health check and goods-in procedure
- Management of plant deliveries
- Consideration of transport shock and time of year
- Assessment of the substrate of the planting material
- Standing down of crops prior to potting
- Irrigation and fertigation of planting material following delivery and prior to potting
- Crop protection management of stood down crops





# Management of input plant material





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# Management of input plant material





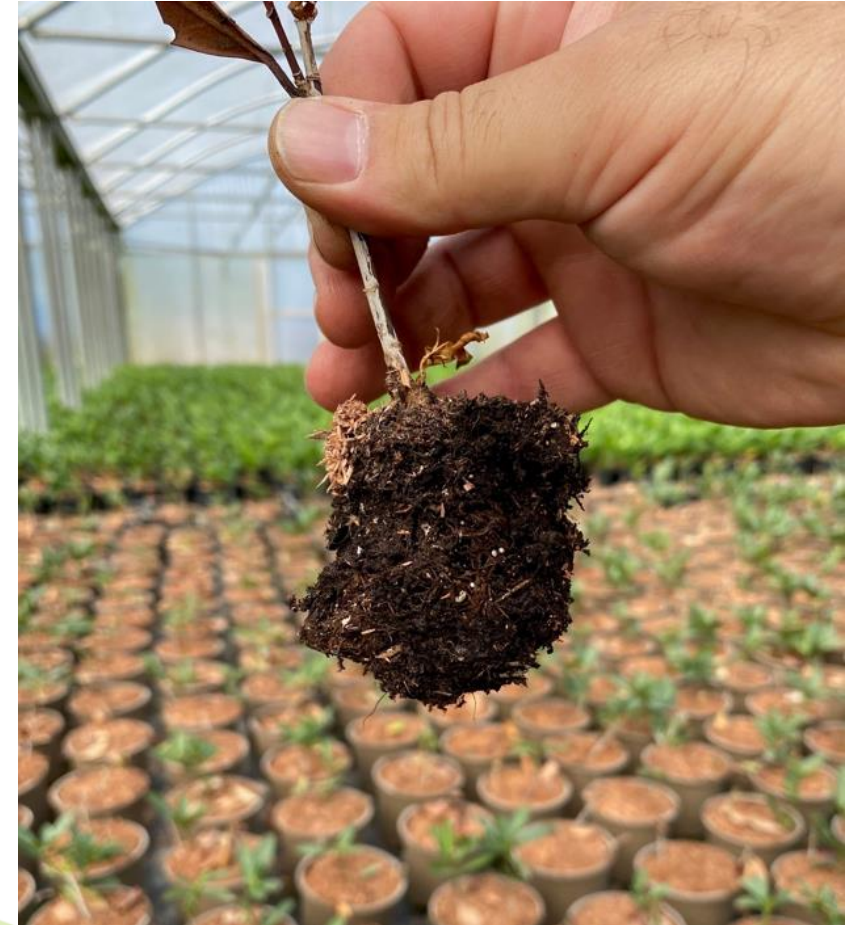
# Management of input plant material



# Improvements in the potting process

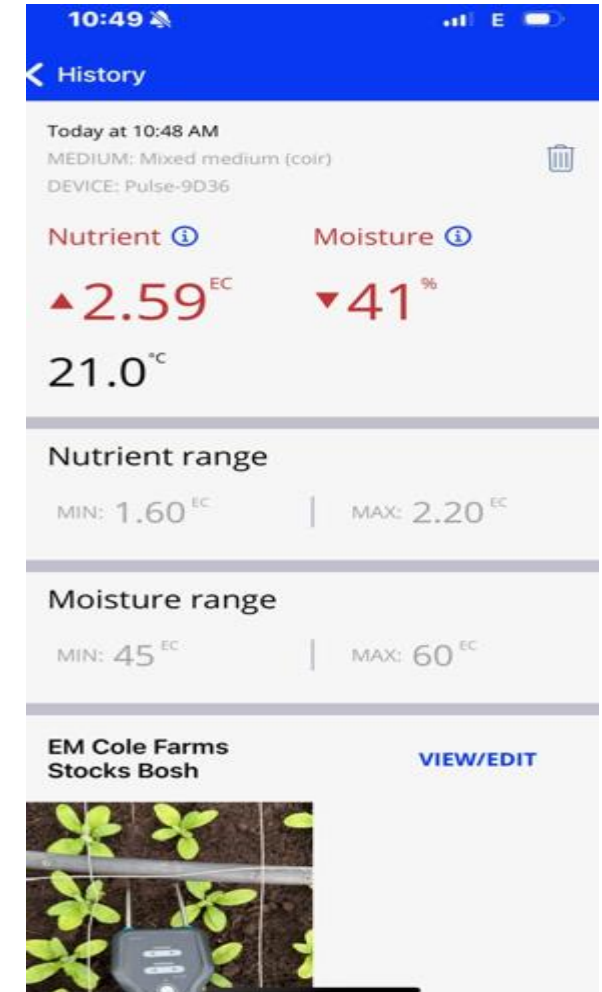


- Handling of plant material during potting
- Growing media stock management
- Potting depths for various crops
- Mulching of potted crops
- Moisture content of growing media
- Plant material root ball size and shape
- In-line irrigation system
- Transporting of potted material to production beds





# Improvements in the potting process



# Improvements in the potting process



## ANALYTICAL RESULTS *on 'as received' basis.*

Determinand	Value	Units	Determinand	Value	Units
pH	6.9		Cond. at 20 C	77	uS/cm
Density	412	kg/m3	Ammonia-N	0.6	mg/l
Dry Matter	15.2	%	Nitrate-N	<0.6	mg/l
Dry Density	62.6	kg/m3	Total Soluble N	1.0	mg/l
Chloride	38.9	mg/l	Sulphate	51.5	mg/l
Phosphorus	3.1	mg/l	Boron	0.16	mg/l
Potassium	77.1	mg/l	Copper	<0.01	mg/l
Magnesium	0.2	mg/l	Manganese	<0.01	mg/l
Calcium	0.6	mg/l	Zinc	0.07	mg/l
Sodium	16.8	mg/l	Iron	1.47	mg/l

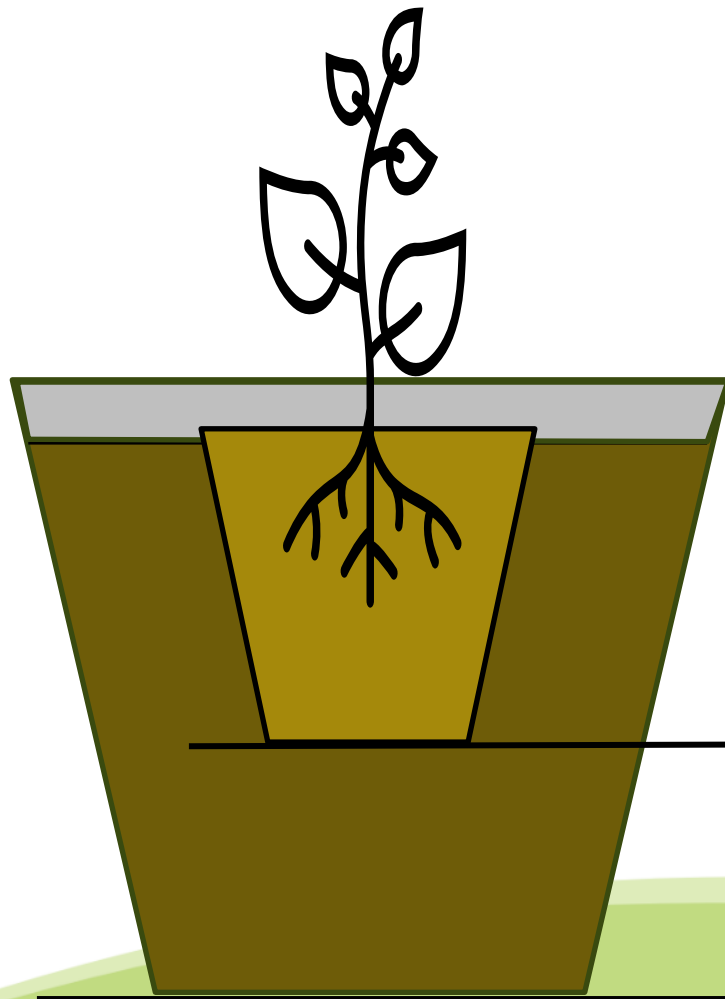


# Improvements in the potting process

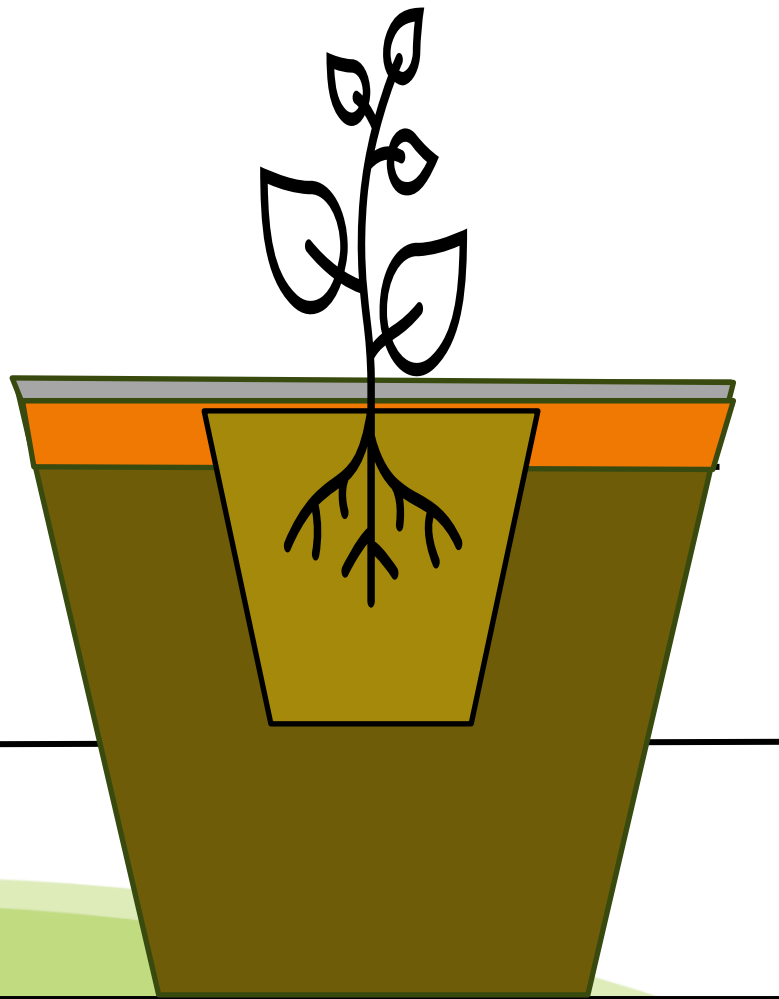


Determinand	Value	Units	Determinand	Value	Units
pH	7.1		Cond. at 20 C	114	uS/cm
Density	399	kg/m3	Ammonia-N	0.8	mg/l
Dry Matter	14.9	%	Nitrate-N	<0.6	mg/l
Dry Density	59.5	kg/m3	Total Soluble N	1.2	mg/l
Chloride	93.8	mg/l	Sulphate	46.3	mg/l
Phosphorus	4.5	mg/l	Boron	0.18	mg/l
Potassium	108.9	mg/l	Copper	<0.01	mg/l
Magnesium	0.6	mg/l	Manganese	0.02	mg/l
Calcium	0.6	mg/l	Zinc	0.07	mg/l
Sodium	26.5	mg/l	Iron	2.86	mg/l

# Improvements in the potting process



NO MULCH

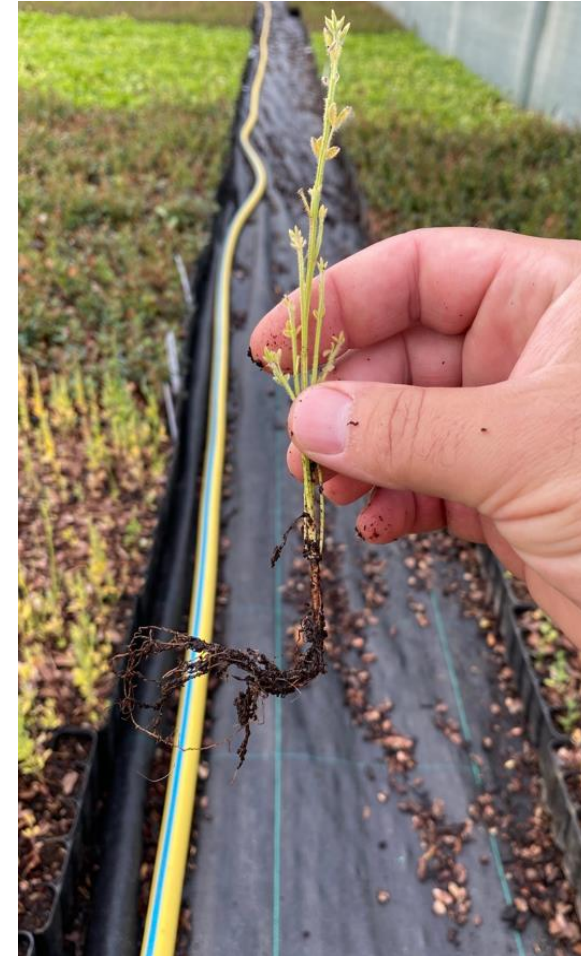
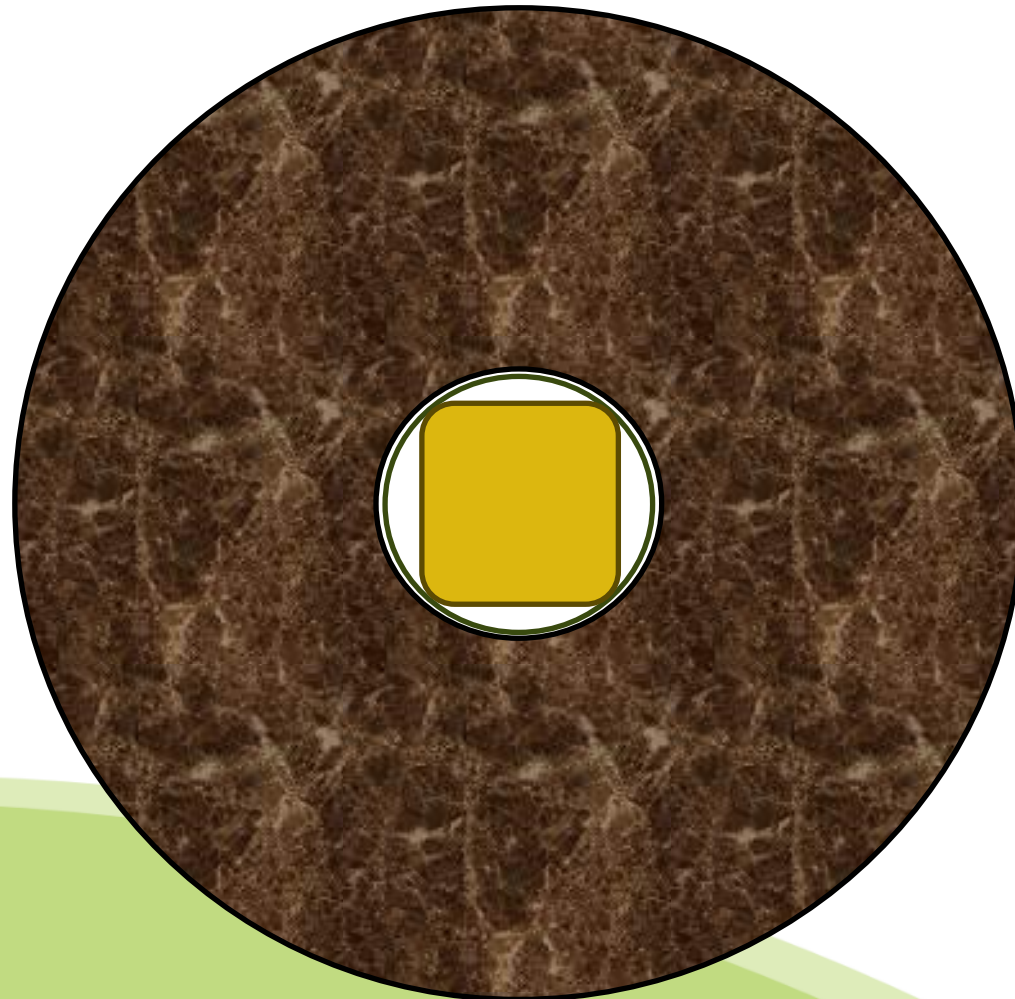


WITH MULCH





# Improvements in the potting process





# Aftercare of crops after potting/planting

- Getting the conditions the plants require
- Regular wetting up of top inch, inch and a half of growing media is paramount
- Keep moisture content high (45-60%) in top layer for two weeks, or until plants have rooted into the new media
- In summer months, use 'Spraygard' to reduce water loss from plants
- Irrigation water qualities – pH and alkalinity
- Regular EC and pH checks





# Aftercare of crops after potting/planting





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# Aftercare of crops after potting/planting





# Crop protection inputs



- Maintenance of healthy crops!
- Regular monitoring for P&D
- Impact of herbicide applications
- Use of biostimulants
- Fungicide applications, especially in early spring and late autumn – systemic products in spring and contact/translaminar in autumn
- Regular foliar and/or liquid feeding based on growing media

# Crop protection inputs



Wk 1

Wk 2

Wk 3

**Signum +  
Intracell**

**Scala +  
HortiBoost /  
Zonda /  
Maxicrop**

**Amistar +  
HortiBoost  
+  
insecticide**

**Slot into regular routines +  
foliar feeding as necessary**





# SUMMARY




- ✓ Increased attention to detail for peat-free growing media
- ✓ Irrigation and nutrient demand is different so keep an eye on these
- ✓ Review goods-in and potting process and adjust
- ✓ In-house training is required, especially if mulching with no set potting team
- ✓ Consider your plant material input size, shape of root ball, health and conditions
- ✓ Using nitric acid to acidify water is beneficial
- ✓ Biostimulants and wetting agents can help
- ✓ Make a programme for your crop protection applications
- ✓ All efforts should be made to reduce potting/transplanting shock!

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