



John Innes Manufacturers Association

Technical Data Sheet No. 16

JOHN INNES FOR PLANTERS, TUBS & WINDOW BOXES

John Innes Composts are most frequently recommended by many gardening experts for growing a wide variety of plants in the following popular types of containers for conservatories, patios and porches, both outdoor and indoor:-

- Patio Planters
- Tubs and Troughs
- Window Boxes
- Wall Baskets
- Interior Planters
- Bottle Gardens
- Hanging Baskets #
- Roof Gardens #

John Innes Potting Compost No 3 is the most suitable grade for mature plants or No 2 for younger plants.

Note: For Hanging Baskets and Roof Gardens where weight might be a problem, several experts suggest a mix of equal parts of a John Innes Potting Compost No.2 and a Multi-purpose Compost, with an addition of about 10% - 15% by volume of Perlite or Vermiculite.

Benefits of John Innes Composts

With the increasing popularity of Patio Gardens and Conservatories, it is worth remembering the benefits of the traditional John Innes Loam-based Potting Compost, which is the most suitable type of compost for most container-grown plants.

When compared with most peat-based or peat-substitute soil-less composts for growing established plants in containers, John Innes loam-based Potting Composts are generally:-

- **EASIER TO WATER** - J.I. Composts take up water more easily and need watering less frequently.
- **HIGHER IN NUTRIENTS** - J.I. Composts provide greater reserves of plant nutrients, so plants suffer less if feeding is overlooked.
- **MORE STABLE** - the natural weight of J.I. Compost provides greater stability and resistance to wind.
- **MORE TOLERANT** - J.I. Composts can cope with wider fluctuations in feeding, watering, and weather.
- **LONGER LASTING** - J.I. Composts last for a longer time before it is necessary to water and feed the plants.

In recent independent trials, John Innes Potting Composts gave better results with older plants than Multi-purpose Composts, either with or without supplementary feeding. John Innes Composts can be used for most types and sizes of plants.

Instructions

Make sure that the containers have drainage holes, then cover the bottom with a layer of horticultural grit to prevent water-logging. Fill up to about 3cm below the rim and firm lightly. Make holes for the root balls of the plants and then ensure that the spaces around the roots are filled. Firm gently and top up with compost, leaving a 2 cm watering space below the rim. Water well and do not allow to dry out.

Position

Plants need light for growth, but avoid excessive direct hot sunlight for sensitive plants. Allow fresh air circulation but avoid fumes, draughts and hot dry air. A moist atmosphere is beneficial. Avoid excessive heat, cold shocks or any sudden changes of temperature.

Feeding

John Innes Potting Composts contain enough plant food for 1 - 2 months, depending on the plant and the season. Thereafter feed regularly during the growing period with a proprietary liquid fertiliser. **Do not allow to dry out.**

Compost Storage

Close the bag of compost after use to keep it moist and to prevent contamination. Keep it in a cool dry place away from weed-killers.

NOTE: When buying John Innes Compost, look for the JIMA Seal of Approval on the bag - a guarantee of satisfaction!

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