

## Top Tropicals Growing Media

### TopTropicals professional soilless potting mix

Professional quality (nursery-grade) potting mix with perfect drainage characteristics, specially created for Top Tropicals by soil professionals using our custom formula. It is an ideal mix for any tropical plants.

**Ingredients:** peat moss, perlite, pine bark (soil conditioner), wetting agent.

### TopTropicals Adenium Mix

This mix is specially formulated for growing Adeniums (Desert Roses). Based on our 15-years experience of growing these unique plants, we created a mix that adeniums love and thrive in! We use this mix for all our desert roses. Unlike common "cactus mix" used for most succulents, Adenium Mix is very light, super porous and provides ideal conditions for growing caudex plants even in rainy climates. Well-balanced ingredients provide perfect drainage, and prevent root system from rotting, which is the most common problem with Desert Roses and other caudex plants.

**Ingredients: perlite, coconut coir, pine bark.** No peat moss that makes it wet! Adenium mix special features:

- superior drainage characteristics, prevents caudex from rotting
- light weight, easy both on roots and on your back when you carry pots
- encourages caudex forming thanks to maintaining uniform, balanced level of moisture in the soil
- induces blooming by favorable conditions for desert roses "on dry side"
- doesn't rot and keeps soilless mix structure for several years without breaking down

### Propagation Mix #2

Professional propagation mix for rooting cuttings. It has perfect drainage characteristics, promotes faster root growth and gives quick anchorage to young roots. The mixture helps retain air and moisture, releasing them as the young starter plant requires them.

**Ingredients:** Perlite, Vermiculite, special rooting agent Epin (prevents from fungus and bacteria growth), professional grade slow release Fertilizer with complete micro-elements (provides rooting cuttings with a healthy start).

### Seed Germination Mix #3

An ideal mix for germination seeds of tropical plants, specially created for Top Tropicals by soil professionals using our custom formula. **It is also great for succulents!**

This mix has perfect drainage characteristics and yet retains enough moisture, so very little watering is required. It promotes healthy root





development, gives quick anchorage to young roots. The mixture helps retain air and moisture, releasing them as the young starter plant requires them.

**Ingredients:** Canadian Peat, Pine bark, Coconut fiber, Perlite, Vermiculite, professional grade slow release Fertilizer with complete micro-elements (provides small seedlings with a healthy start).

### **Perlite**

Perlite is a natural mineral; an amorphous volcanic glass with a high water content. It is a must for soilless potting mix, providing drainage and holding moisture. Very light-weight and highly absorbent, it possesses an unusual ability to greatly retain water.

Perlite is used as a great soil conditioner, but not as a soil replacement, because plants need nutrients which occur in the organic content of soil. However, perlite is the best ingredient to improve soil drainage. We normally add 10-15% perlite to our soilless mix. Some special drainage-loving plants (like Miracle Fruit) will require a higher content of perlite, up to 40-50%.

### **Vermiculite**

Vermiculite is a hydrous, silicate mineral. It is a wonderful growing media for many purposes:

**Soilless growing media:** exfoliated vermiculite is combined with other materials such as peat or pine bark to produce soilless growing media that promotes faster root growth and gives quick anchorage to young roots. Vermiculite helps retain air, plant food and moisture, releasing them as the plant requires them.

**Seed germination:** either used alone or mixed with potting soil or peat, vermiculite is used to germinate seeds. Very little watering is required. When vermiculite is used alone, seedlings should be fed with a weak fertilizer solution when the first true leaves appear.

**Storing bulbs and root crops:** pour vermiculite around bulbs placed in container. If clumps are dug, allow to dry for a few hours in the sun and then place in cartons and cover with vermiculite. The absorptive power of vermiculite acts as a regulator that prevents mildew and moisture fluctuation during the storage period. It will not absorb moisture from the inside of stored tubers, but it does take up free water from the outside, preventing storage rot.

**As a soil conditioner:** Where the native soil is heavy or sticky, gentle mixing of vermiculite up to one-half the volume of the soil is recommended. This creates air channels and allows the soil mix to breathe. Mixing vermiculite in flower and vegetable gardens or in potted plants will provide the necessary air to maintain vigorous plant growth. Where soils are sandy, mixing of vermiculite into the soil will allow the soil to hold water and air needed for growth.



*All these supplies and more are available from our online store at [TopTropicals.com](http://TopTropicals.com)*