

BPPC. Adopting responsibly sourced growing media blends (PO 019d)

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What are we hoping to achieve?

Aim: A series of demonstration trials to identify and address the key nursery cultural practices permitting the adoption of responsibly sourced peat-reduced and peat-free growing media blends on bedding and pot plant nurseries

Evaluate irrigation and liquid feed requirements

Identify any adjustments required to container filling machine practices

Systems: Propagation, pot/pack bedding, pot plant production

Trial details

Treatments:

- Three proprietary peat-free substrates
- Nursery standard product (control)
- Non-replicated, non-randomised trial

Cultivation:

- 64 plants/species/treatment
- Transplanted week 39 (29 Sept)

Species:

- *Calathea roseopicta* 'Silvia' (rose painted Calathea)
- *Ficus benjamina* 'Exotica' (weeping fig)



Nutrient analysis of unused media

pH	EC @ 20C	Ammonia-N	Nitrate-N	Total N	P	K	Mg	Cl	SO ₄
	uS/cm	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l
6.5	442	4.8	92.0	96.8	25.9	352.7	27.4	91.5	369.5
6.8	647	122.7	116.2	238.9	60.5	432.9	13.6	84.6	571.4
6.2	239	8.1	20.6	28.8	25.5	223.7	1.7	180.9	73.0
5.5	221	21.7	10	31.7	17.9	81.4	44.6	13.4	402.4

Mechanisation



Density	kg/m ³	233
Dry Matter	%	80.1
Dry Density	kg/m ³	186.6



Density	kg/m ³	408
Dry Matter	%	43.1
Dry Density	kg/m ³	175.8



Density	kg/m ³	427
Dry Matter	%	56
Dry Density	kg/m ³	239.1

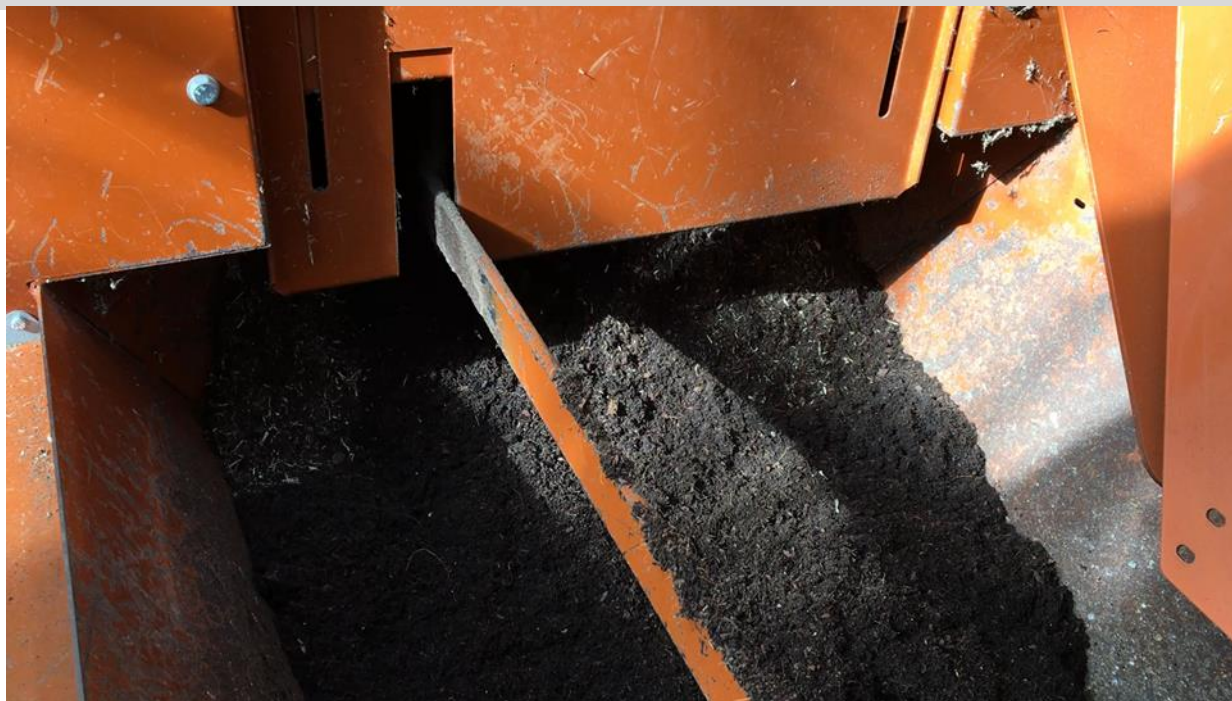


Density	kg/m ³	343
Dry Matter	%	53.4
Dry Density	kg/m ³	183.2

Mechanisation (blue)



Mechanisation (purple)



Mechanisation (purple)



Earley Ornamentals, Thirsk.

Propagation

Workshop: Wednesday 9th February

Two further trials on pot / pack bedding tbc

Thanks...



- Luke Lloyd, Laura Marner and the Hills Team
- Growing Media Manufacturers
- BPOA
- AHDB Horticulture
- ADAS Colleagues
- Chloe Whiteside

