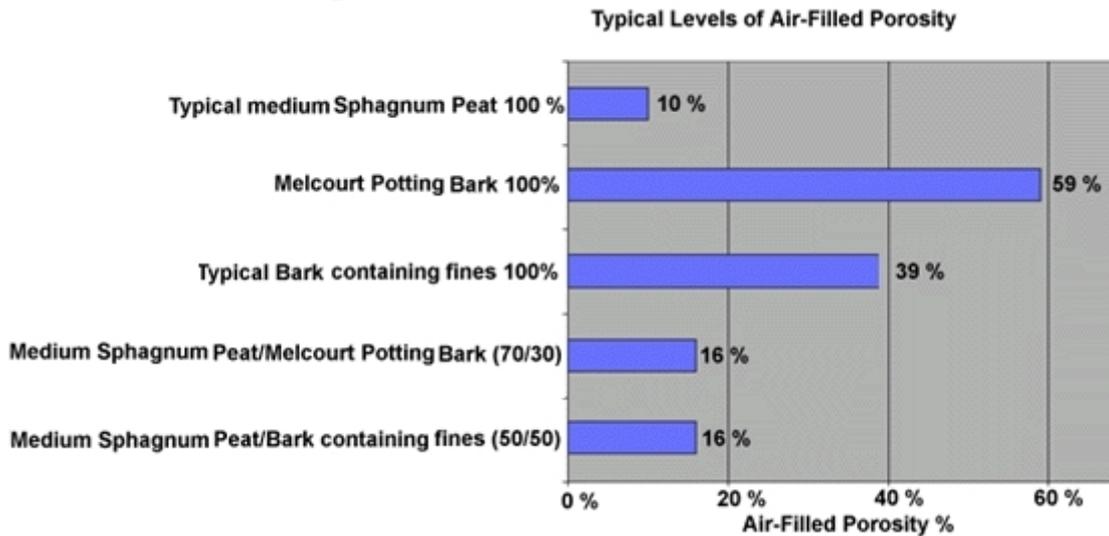


The Cost Efficiency of Melcourt Grower Barks

Fact

- A unique and extremely important feature of Melcourt Potting Bark is that most of the fine particles have been screened out. This enables the product to substantially outperform, and be considerably more cost-effective than barks containing fines.
- Research has conclusively demonstrated that within growing media, the quantity of fine particles has more influence than any other factor in determining the level of air-filled porosity.



User Benefits

- Fines being removed from Melcourt Potting Bark gives two important real benefits:-
- **Greater increase in air-filled porosity per unit of bark used.**

The graph above shows that :-

- The medium grade peat used in the tests had an air-filled porosity of 10%
- Melcourt Potting Bark has an air-filled porosity of 59%
- The bark containing fines used in the tests had an air-filled porosity of 39%
- The 70/30 mix of peat and Melcourt Potting Bark had an air-filled porosity of 16%
- The 50/50 mix of peat and bark with fines had an air-filled porosity of 16%, ie 20% more bark with fines had to be added to the peat in order to achieve the same air-filled porosity of 16%.

Continued.....

The Cost Efficiency of Melcourt Grower Barks (Continued)

- **Major cost saving.**

For a 50m³ load of nursery-produced compost, the following peat and Melcourt Potting Bark costs are typical :-

medium sphagnum peat @ £17.00 per m³
Melcourt Potting Bark @ £31.00 per m³

The cost per cubic metre for a 70/30 peat/bark mix is therefore:-

medium sphagnum peat £17.00 x 70% = £11.90
Melcourt Potting Bark £31.00 x 30% = £ 9.30
Total = £21.20 per m³

Therefore the total peat and bark cost for the 50m³ load would be £ 21.20 x 50 = £ 1060.00

From the graph it can be seen that to achieve the same degree of compost quality in terms of air-filled porosity, 20 % more bark containing fines had to be used, compared to the fine-free Melcourt Potting Bark.

The increase in cost caused as a result of this, depends on the price paid for the bark. The example below shows what the effect would be if the bark containing fines was the same price as the Melcourt Potting Bark.

medium sphagnum peat @ £17.00 per m³
bark containing fines @ £31.00 per m³

The cost per cubic metre for a 50/50 peat/bark mix is therefore :-

medium sphagnum peat £17.00 x 50% = £ 8.50
Melcourt Potting Bark £31.00 x 50% = £ 15.50
Total = £ 24.00 per m³

Therefore the total peat and bark cost for the 50m³ load would be £ 24.00 x 50 = £ 1200.00 i.e. a 13% increase

Conclusions

From this typical example it can be seen that:

- 20% more bark containing fines is required to achieve the same air-filled porosity as Melcourt Potting Bark.
- As more bark is required you could be paying substantially more than you need. In this example it amounts to 13% more.



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