

THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR POTTING MIXES.

Potting Mixes conform to the Australian Standard if the package is marked with a series of ticks, Black for a Regular Mix and Red for a Premium Mix. This marking is your assurance that the mix will have the following properties:

1. An air filled porosity of at least 10% (see note A).
2. Is reasonably easy to re-wet (see note B).
3. Has a Ph between 5.3 and 6.5.
4. Its salinity level is not harmful.
5. It is not toxic to plant roots.
6. It contains trace elements sufficient for at least 12 months.
7. It contains a balanced supply of Calcium and Magnesium.
8. The worst of the Nitrogen drawdown has been overcome and this property is more stringent for Premium Mixes. (see note C).
9. Premium Mixes will contain minimum specified concentrations of Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus. Regular Mixes will contain some Potassium but no Nitrogen or Phosphorus.

Note A. Air filled porosity is the percentage of space in the mix occupied by air when the soil is drained of free water but no drying has taken place.

Note B. Although this attribute is specified, it is recommended that a wetting agent (not a water retention product) be used at the intervals recommended on the package.

Note C. *Nitrogen drawdown* is the term used to describe the action of vegetable matter in or on the soil in extracting available Nitrogen from it for use in the breaking down (composting) process. Untreated additives such as fresh wood chips, sawdust or green waste spread on the surface of or dug into the soil are very demanding of Nitrogen and additional nitrogenous fertiliser, such as urea, must be applied to compensate. It is recommended that only well composted material be used on the garden or in potting mixes.