

## RECIPE

# Basic Begonia Mix #1



## Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{3}$  part  $\frac{1}{4}$ " fir bark (clean, if possible)
- $\frac{1}{3}$  part perlite (#4 course or higher)
- $\frac{1}{3}$  part cococoir

## Preparation

1. Mix it all together and dampen.
2. Tamp down gently to remove air pockets after potting. Don't pack.

## Tips

**Cococoir** is a renewable medium, but be aware of where your cococoir is processed. Coconuts can be stored and sea water and therefore can have salt residual, not good for begonias. Locally, core can be purchased from Alcapulco Soil or American Soil both located in Richmond, California. They are sold in 2 cu. bags. It is also available for purchase at our Branch Meeting Begonia Store in gallon size bags.

**Perlite** can be purchased at most big box stores and many garden centers. Be sure to use a coarse perlite. Begonias want air to the roots and this medium delivers that requirement. You may want to rinse this as it is dusty, but no sterilization is needed as it is a sterile product.

Perlite can be purchased at Grower Supplies stores and can be obtained up to a #8 grade which is large and desired for orchids and large begonias. It is easily crushed in to smaller pieces.

Pumice or Lava Rock can be substituted for perlite, if desired.

**Fir Bark** delivers the organic substance that begonias thrive on. Use a fine bark as it works well with the fibrous roots of begonias.

In place of fir bark Oak Leaf Mold mulch is the ultimate, however it is very hard to find.

**Important:** Use what works for you and your begonias and don't overwater!