



Practical Soil Mixing Workshop

Presented by Shelter International e.V.



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Essential Equipment for Soil Mixing

01



Containers

Use large plastic containers or tarps for mixing.

02



Buckets

Measure soil components accurately using these buckets.

03



Gloves

Protect hands while mixing with durable gloves.

Equipment for Storage

Preparing an organized workspace before mixing soil is essential. Utilize **large plastic bags or bins** for storage, and ensure you have **waterproof markers** on hand for labeling. Clear labeling helps maintain mix quality and usability for future gardening projects.



Soil Mixing Preparation

Proper preparation is crucial for successful soil mixing. Gather all necessary components, including soil types, amendments, and tools. Accurate measurement and organization ensure consistent results, leading to a well-balanced mix that promotes healthy plant growth in your container garden.



Layering Ingredients

Properly layering soil components is essential for achieving an **even mixture**. Start by adding each ingredient in distinct layers, ensuring even distribution. This method promotes better mixing and allows for optimal moisture retention, enhancing the overall quality of your soil mix.



Mixing Technique

Proper mixing technique is crucial to achieve a **uniform soil blend**. Use your hands with gloves or small shovels, mixing thoroughly from the bottom up. This method ensures consistency in color and texture while breaking up any clumps in the mixture.



Final Checks

Before completing your soil mixing, perform **final checks** to ensure optimal moisture levels. Squeeze a handful of soil; it should hold its shape without dripping water. Adjust the mixture by adding water or dry materials as necessary for consistency.



Moisture and pH Testing

Achieving the **ideal moisture balance** is vital for healthy plant roots. This section explores methods for testing moisture levels and understanding the significance of pH, which affects nutrient availability and microbial activity crucial for plant health.



Adjusting pH Up

To raise soil pH, incorporate **dolomitic lime** or **wood ash** into your mix. These amendments improve alkalinity, enhancing nutrient availability for plants. Always follow recommended application rates for effective adjustments, and retest pH after waiting to ensure proper balance.



Adjusting pH Down

To lower soil pH for optimal plant growth, **elemental sulfur**, peat moss, or acidic fertilizers can be effectively used. These materials enhance nutrient availability and support microbial activity, ensuring a healthy growing environment for your plants.



Labeling and Storage

Proper **labeling** of mixed soil containers is crucial for maintaining mix quality and usability. Clearly mark each container with the mix type, date of mixing, and intended plants using waterproof markers to ensure longevity and prevent contamination during storage.



Storage Recommendations

Proper **storage practices** are essential to maintain the quality of your mixed soil. Use large plastic bags or airtight bins to preserve moisture and freshness. Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight for optimal results within 2-3 months.



Container Depth Requirements

Understanding the impact of **container depth** on root development is crucial for successful gardening. Different plants have varying root needs, influencing water retention and overall health. Choosing the right depth ensures strong growth and optimal yields for your balcony garden.



Container Depth Requirements by Plant Type

01



Shallow

Ideal for growing salad greens and herbs.

02



Medium

Great for bush tomatoes and peppers growth.

03



Deep

Necessary for carrots and deep-rooted plants.



Thank you for attention for today!



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