



JOHN INNES COMPOSTS

THE JOHN INNES NAME

The composts were developed at the John Innes Institute, named after John Innes, a nineteenth-century property and land dealer in the City of London. On his death in 1904, he bequeathed his fortune and estate to the improvement of horticulture by experiments and research. The result was the establishment of the John Innes Horticultural Research Institute initially at Merton in Surrey, but now located at Norwich.

John Innes composts are a blend of carefully-selected loam or topsoil, sphagnum moss peat, coarse sand or grit, and fertilizers. The loam is screened and sterilized and then thoroughly mixed with the other ingredients in proportions designed to achieve the optimum air and water-holding capacity and nutrient content for different types and sizes of plants.

WHAT ARE JOHN INNES COMPOSTS?

The basic John Innes Composts are:

JOHN INNES SEED COMPOST — the traditional mix for sowing almost any type of seed, with sufficient nutrients for early development. May also be used for rooting soft cuttings.

JOHN INNES POTTING COMPOST No. 1 — for pricking out or potting-up young seedlings or rooted cuttings. This compost has a carefully-balanced nutrient content to suit most young plants.

JOHN INNES POTTING COMPOST No. 2 — for general potting of most house plants and vegetable plants into medium-sized pots or boxes. Contains double the amount of nutrients in John Innes No. 1 to suit established plants.

JOHN INNES POTTING COMPOST No. 3 — a richer mixture for final re-potting of gross feeding vegetable plants and for mature foliage plants and shrubs in interior planters or outdoor containers.

JOHN INNES ERICACEOUS COMPOST — a specially-formulated sterilized loam-based, lime-free compost with essential plant foods for most lime-hating subjects, such as azaleas, heathers and rhododendrons, etc.

WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS?

The function of each of the ingredients in John Innes is briefly as follows:

LOAM — Loam is the most important ingredient in the compost as it provides the main “body” of the compost. It also forms the base of plant nutrition by supplying clay, which has a cation and anion exchange capacity, that is, it absorbs and releases plant nutrients as required. Loam also contains essential micro-elements and some organic matter which provides a slow release of nitrogen to the plant.

PEAT — Sphagnum moss peat in the John Innes compost increases the total porosity and improves both the aeration and the water-retaining capacity. Peat decomposes slowly into humus.

SAND — The coarse sand or grit is used as a physical conditioner to allow excess water to drain from the compost and thus prevent waterlogging. It also helps to provide stability for larger plants.

FERTILIZER — The compound fertilizer in John Innes composts provides a wide spectrum of plant nutrients needed for balanced growth, including:

- **Nitrogen** — for top growth
- **Phosphates** — for root growth
- **Potash** — for flowering and fruiting
- **Trace Elements** — for colour and flavour.

WHERE CAN I BUY JOHN INNES COMPOSTS?

John Innes Seed Compost and Composts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are available from the Trading Shop.



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