

Providing organic potting soil while keeping the Triple Bottom Line

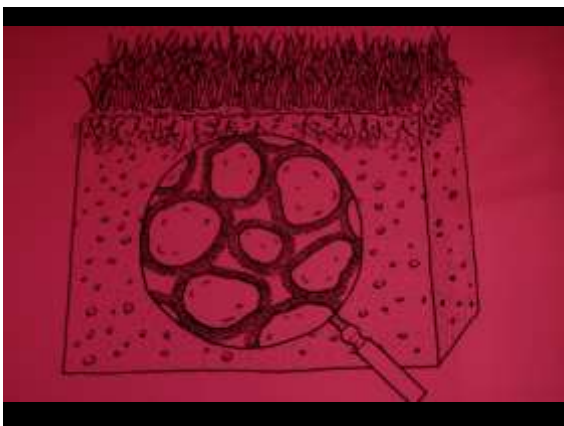
















Sustainable Solutions for Container Media

Replace energy intensive ingredients like perlite or vermiculite with parboiled rice hulls (PBH).

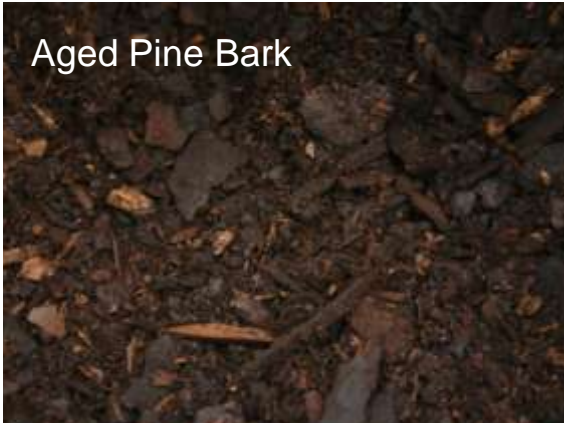
Uses 25% less product to get same porosity



Compost



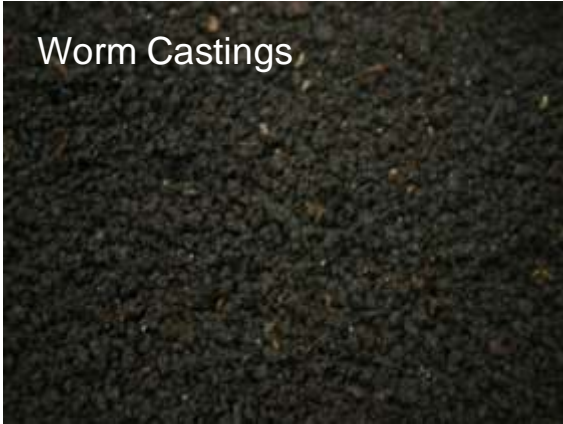
Aged Pine Bark



Coconut Husk Fiber



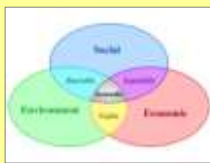
Worm Castings



Biodiesel use at Organic Mechanics



Triple Bottom Line (TBL) at Organic Mechanics



PEOPLE (Social)
 Equitable pay
 Quality of life
 Increased food security
 Donations to teaching gardens

PLANET (Environment)
 Earth-friendly products
 Low carbon footprint
 Green production methods
 Ecosystem functions
 Encouraging organic lifestyles

PROFIT (Economics)
 Green jobs
 Green investment opportunity
 Company sustainability

http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/about/what_is_sustainability.php - Venn diagram showing TBL structure



Soil as priority vs. Soil as afterthought



BIOCHAR

- Soil amendment
- Pure carbon
- Made in oxygen limited environment
- Absorbant
- Increased efficiency in fertilizers
- Improves soil structure
- Microbial "condominium"
- Avenue for greenhouse gas sequestration/mitigation
- Increases yield & health
- Greatest impact on poor soils
- <http://www.biochar-international.org>



SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE

www.sustainablesites.org

Role of Soils in Ecosystem Services

- Sustain and enhance soil ecosystem
- Maintain structure and aggregation
- Minimize runoff / maximize water holding capacity
- Absorb excess nutrients, sediments, and pollutants
- Provide healthy rooting environment and habitat for soil microorganisms
- Nutrient cycling









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