

Horti-Perl®

PERLITE-PEAT BLENDS

A premium PERLITE product by
REDCO II

PRODUCT
INFORMATION
BULLETIN

104

The Hidden Cost of Poor Quality Soil

Horti-Perl and peat moss are the main ingredients in "VP" and other custom blends by Redco II. The same Horti-Perl and peat moss are common in the soils formulated by many professional growers. Other growers avoid these materials and restrict their use because of their apparent high cost. But, on a performance basis, this may be poor economy.

The costs of soil are not merely the costs of materials plus mixing labor and plant depreciation. Since soil quality largely determines the rate of growing and plant quality, any losses due to poor soils come "right off the top" of the profit margin.

The cost of poor growth and lowered quality can be expressed as a function of soil costs. This type of cost data is probably new to many growers. It demonstrates that the losses from inferior soil can far outweigh the slight added costs of top quality soil materials.

Type of Loss Bedding Plant Flat 6" Azalea Pot 4" Pot 2½" Pot

	Bedding Plant Flat		6" Azalea Pot		4" Pot		2½" Pot	
	Rate	Cost per cu.yd.	Rate	Cost per cu.yd.	Rate	Cost per cu.yd.	Rate	Cost per cu.yd.
Loss of Plants	2%	\$10.86	1%	\$13.20	5%	\$41.24	3%	\$50.75
Loss of Quality	\$0.25	\$41.75	\$0.25	\$110.00	\$0.05	\$63.45	\$0.02	\$96.66
Loss of Time (Bench Time)	2 WK	\$53.44	1/2 WK	\$22.00	2 WK	\$63.45	2 WK	\$48.33
Loss of time Labor	2 Min	\$32.01	1 Min	\$42.17	1/2 Min	\$60.81	1/6 Min	\$77.19
Total Loss per cu. yd.		\$138.05		\$187.37		\$228.95		\$272.93

Factors used in Calculations

Prices

Flat	167 per cu.yd. @	\$3.25
6" Azalea	440 per cu.yd. @	\$3.00
4" Pot	1269 per cu.yd. @	\$0.65
2½" Pot	4833 per cu.yd. @	\$0.35
Bench Space	\$0.10 sq.ft./wk	
Labor	\$5.75 per hour	