

Horti-Perl®

A premium PERLITE product by
REDCO II

PRODUCT
INFORMATION
BULLETIN

106

Perlite Amendment For Ideal Turf and Garden Soils

GENERAL INFORMATION

The home grower has known perlite for years as the white granules in the soil of virtually all professionally grown container plants. The same properties that serve so well in potting soils can be equally beneficial in native soil. Perlite promotes aeration and drainage in heavy garden and turf soils by preventing soil compaction and crusting. In sandy soils it holds sufficient moisture – without becoming soggy – to permit considerably reduced watering time and expense, providing a measure of drought insurance.

Since perlite is akin to glass chemically, it is inert and does not decompose in soil. One application by rototiller or spade at 15-35% by volume of soil allows easy hand cultivation and weeding while reducing future conditioning needs. Turf managers have verified that the beneficial effects of perlite last indefinitely. Perlite is processed at 1700°F leaving it free of disease, weeds and insects. It does not affect soil pH although it improves aeration sufficiently to promote easier salt leaching. Further, plant growth is more consistent and rapid. While professional growers customarily use perlite ranging in size from coarse to fine, the ideal grade of perlite for garden conditioning is the coarse sand size available at most nurseries. It is also carried by building material dealers usually labeled plaster or concrete aggregate. (Note: Silicon treated perlite is not recommended in soils.)

FOR GENERAL SOIL CONDITIONING AND SOIL PREPARATION

Perlite can be used by itself or combined with organic amendments at 15-35% of the volume of the new soil.

1. Rototill, spade or fork soil to a depth of 6" to 12" as desired.
2. Spread perlite over the soil to a thickness of 1/2" to 2". For more complete soil conditioning, use a 1/2" to 2" layer of perlite followed by a 1/2" to 2" layer of organic amendment. This could be peat, compost, leaf mulch, and/or nitrogen stabilized sawdust, shavings or bark. For shrub/tree backfill, incorporate perlite as much as one-third by volume combined with organic amendment and native soil.
3. Mix thoroughly into the soil.
4. Level, spray mist, (soak thoroughly) and then firm the area before planting to settle the soil evenly.

FOR NEW LAWNS OR FINE SEED BEDS

1. Rototill, spade or fork soil to a depth of 6" to 12" as desired.
2. Spread perlite over the soil to a thickness of 1/2" to 2". If desired, add 1/2" to 2" of compost or nitrogen stabilized bark or sawdust of less than 1/4" in size.
3. Mix thoroughly into the soil.
4. Spray mist and roll area to a settled, level surface before planting.

TURF DRESSING AND RENOVATION

1. Aerate the area with a spike or fork and then spread a thin layer of perlite with or without fertilizer added. Rake or brush and water thoroughly to settle evenly.
2. For re-seeding poor areas, incorporate about 20% of perlite by volume into soil as described for new lawns. Then sow seeds with a covering layer of peat moss or manure.