



# Melcourt Professional Growers' Range



- **Peat-free growing media**
- **Bark-based media ingredients**
- **Orchid barks**



Proven • Safe • Sustainable

# At last...

...a range of superb peat-free growing media from the UK's only true specialist in bark-based compost ingredients and peat replacements.

The Melcourt Sylvamix Range offers professional growers an outstanding opportunity to grow excellent crops without the use of peat, season after season. Renowned for quality and customer care that is second-to-none, backed by more than 25 years experience, Melcourt brings expertise and confidence to peat-free growing.

Working in partnership with Melcourt gives you **total confidence** that:

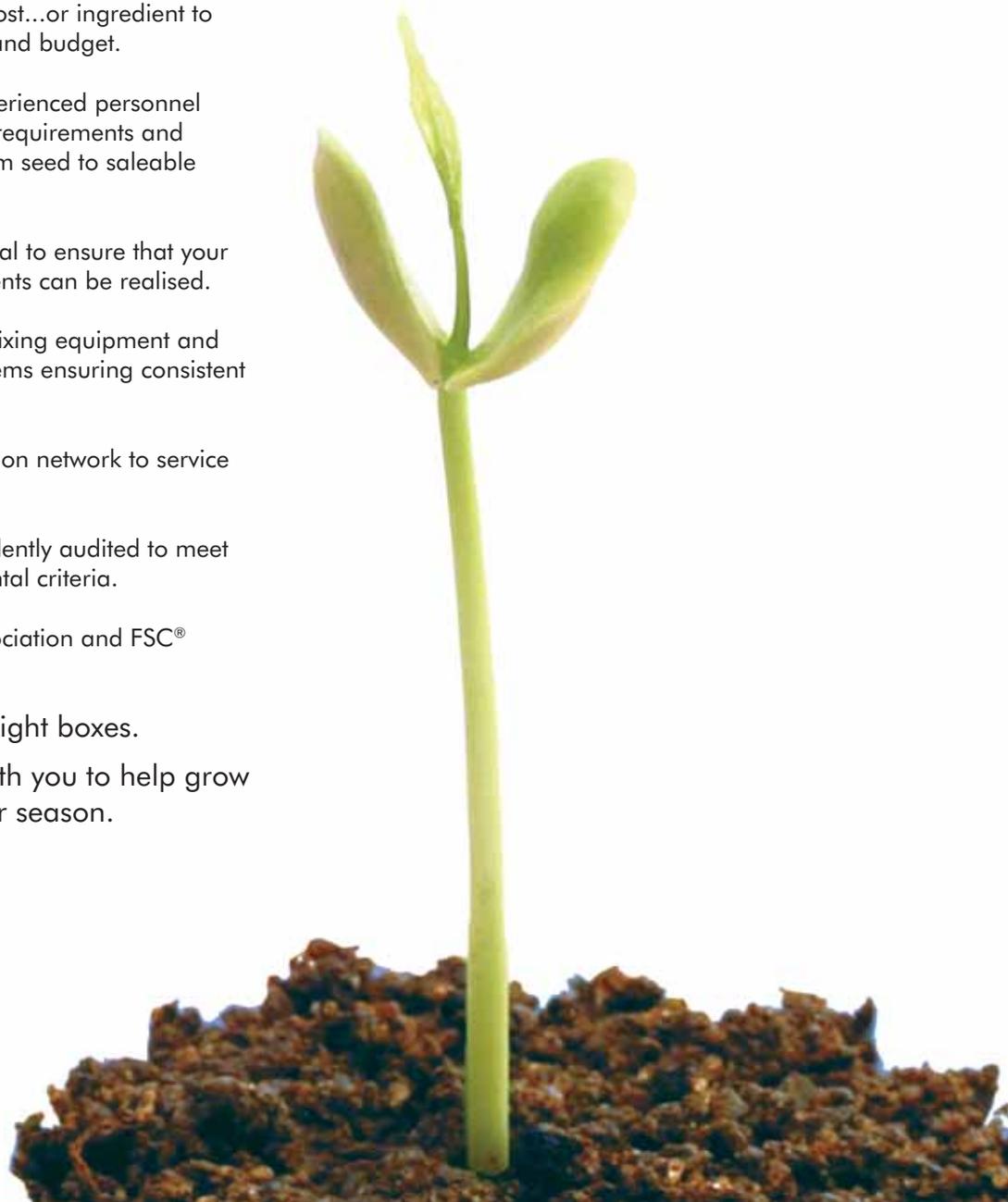
- We have a peat-free compost...or ingredient to suit any crop requirement and budget.
- We have qualified and experienced personnel who fully understand your requirements and provide practical help...from seed to saleable plant.
- We have ample raw material to ensure that your compost volume requirements can be realised.
- We have state-of-the-art mixing equipment and meticulous production systems ensuring consistent quality, batch after batch.
- We have a unique distribution network to service your orders promptly.
- Our products are independently audited to meet any customers' environmental criteria.
- Melcourt are both Soil Association and FSC® certified.

**Yes...**Melcourt ticks **all** of the right boxes.

We look forward to working with you to help grow outstanding crops, season after season.

**Andy Chalmers**  
Sales & Marketing Director

**Catherine Dawson**  
Technical Director



# Technical & Customer Support

**Our technical and customer support is continuous – from your initial enquiry – right through to the successful growth and despatch of your crop.**

Catherine Dawson, Melcourt's Technical Director, has worked with bark products and growing media in horticulture for over 25 years and is the UK's leading authority on this subject.



- ✓ Field trials and product monitoring are undertaken throughout the UK, in conjunction with existing Melcourt customers, as well as recognised research bodies, including HRI, HDC and ADAS.
- ✓ Typical product samples, quotations and comprehensive technical literature and website access are available, without delay.
- ✓ Site visits to consider particular crops and applications are arranged at times convenient to the customer.
- ✓ Melcourt Grower products are exhibited at all leading UK trade shows.



Melcourt's trial site near Cambridge



- All Melcourt barks originate from British or European forests managed on a fully sustained basis, ensuring continuity of supply whilst protecting the environment. Products with the FSC notation are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, and those with the SA notation are certified by the Soil Association.
- Melcourt are active members of the Growing Media Association (GMA), the trade body for growing media manufacturers. Membership demonstrates that the company systems and quality assurance processes have been successfully audited, including an independent check of bag volumes.
- Melcourt are founding members of the Growing Media Initiative, a cross-industry scheme developed by the HTA, the GMA, DIY and Garden Centre retailers, Defra, the RSPB and the Royal Horticultural Society. The GMI aims to increase awareness of the need to protect the world's peatlands and the need therefore to use more sustainable materials for growing plants and improving the soil in gardens.



# Sylvamix® Peat-Free Growing Media

Over 20 years of continuous and detailed product development, both in the laboratory and on a wide range of nurseries and crop types, enable Melcourt to claim that their Sylvamix® product range is the market leader for its product type in the UK.

## Sylvamix® Potting



A fine, free-flowing ready-to-use peat-free growing medium suitable for a wide range of nursery applications including bedding, herbaceous perennials and pot plants.

## Sylvamix® Nursery Stock



An open-structured, free-flowing ready-to-use peat-free growing medium suitable for a wide range of nursery stock, including trees.

## Sylvamix® Natural



A free-flowing ready-to-use, Soil Association approved, peat-free growing medium suitable for a wide range of applications including ornamental and food crops.



## Sylvamix® Special



Sylvamix® Special is the prescription mix service fulfilling the specific requirements of individual growers, incorporating modifications to the standard formulae of Sylvamix® Potting and Sylvamix® Nursery Stock or Sylvamix® Natural, for example by the addition of controlled release fertilizers, wetting agents, loam or other ingredients.

Full technical product specifications, application rates and uses are available on our website at [www.melcourt.co.uk](http://www.melcourt.co.uk)

# Growing Media

Whether you wish to create better growing medium, aim for pathogen suppression, Melcourt Range of bark and wood-fibre products can help.

## Potting Bark™



## Growbark® Pine



A fine, matured, pine bark designed as a major growing medium ingredient. An ideal additive to peat and its alternatives.



## Sylvafibre®



A fine composted wood-fibre designed as a major growing medium ingredient, ideal for peat-free or peat-reduced plant production.



Soil Association approved products can be found on our website at [www.melcourt.co.uk](http://www.melcourt.co.uk)

# Orchid Ingredients

air-filled porosity, reduce peat, create a more structurally sound medium, or improve the performance of your peat-based mix, the best choice of growing medium ingredients is for you...

## Propagating Bark™

A matured, pine bark chip, mid to dark brown in colour, with virtually no fines, designed for incorporation into peat-based or peat-free growing media, to improve both air-filled porosity and long term structural stability. Also an excellent pot mulch to suppress weed, moss and liverwort growth.



A fine, substantially dust free, matured, pine bark designed for use in mixes with peat or suitable alternatives for the vegetative propagation of nursery stock and a wide range of other plants. Also an excellent pot mulch to suppress weed, moss and liverwort growth.



## Growbark® Mixed Conifer



A fine, matured, mixed conifer bark designed as a major growing medium ingredient. An ideal additive to peat and its alternatives.



## Hortibark® Pine



A matured, pine bark, designed for incorporation into peat-based or peat-free growing media, for the purpose of improving both air-filled porosity and long term structural stability.



## Hortibark® Mixed Conifer



A medium graded, well-matured mixed-conifer bark designed as a major growing medium ingredient. An ideal additive to peat and its alternatives.



# Melcourt Orchid Bark™

## Orchid Bark™ Coarse



## Orchid Bark™ Medium



Chunky, fine-free pine bark, designed for use in orchid composts where they provide extremely free drainage and long-term structural stability.



not to be used as 'restricted inputs' in organic systems.



FSC refers to products with the Forest Stewardship Council's certification no. CU-COC-806457

# Pot Mulching

Save yourself time, money, water and herbicide by using Melcourt Potting or Propagating Bark to:

- Reduce the spread of moss and liverwort on top of the compost
- Reduce the effect of water evaporation from the compost
- Help prevent hostile weed seeds and spores germinating within the container
- Substantially improve the visual appearance of the potted item before leaving your nursery



The picture shows two pots, a full season after being left bare or mulched with Potting Bark (right). HDC research has demonstrated the value of this method and its cost-effectiveness compared to herbicide applications.

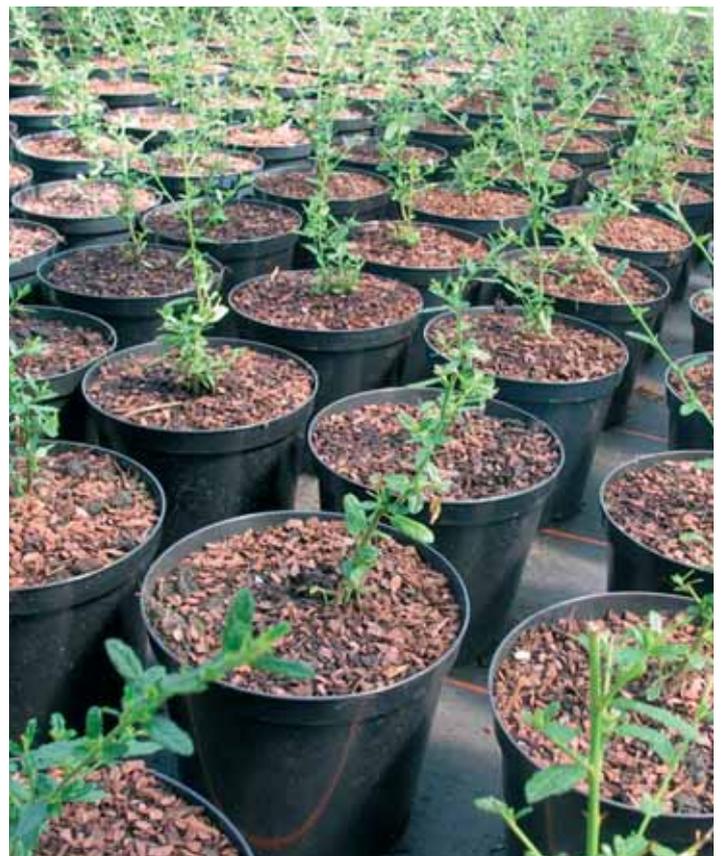


As well as providing a hostile surface for moss and liverwort, the mulch has been shown to enhance growth by preventing evaporation from the pot surface and reducing competition, as shown here with these *Choisya ternata* 'Aztec Pearl', no mulch on the left, a 2cm layer of Melcourt Potting Bark on the right.

Melcourt Potting and Propagating Barks make ideal choices, used at between 2 and 4cm depth. Having had the dust and fines removed they ensure that any applied water gets to the roots whilst their surface is hostile to germinating seeds or spores.

## Melcourt's Pot Mulches are:

- coarse enough to present a dry surface and allow free passage of irrigation
- free-flowing, easily covering the entire surface of the pot with no gaps
- evenly graded so ready to knit into a resilient, wind-resistant surface
- resistant to shrinkage on drying so no gaps appear
- very easy to apply either by hand or by machine, with minimal requirement for protective clothing and no formal training required
- non-damaging to stock – non-phytotoxic and no restriction on protected crops
- competitively priced against herbicide use
- long lasting enough to maintain an attractive appearance until the time of despatch – a single application is all that is required
- certified by the Soil Association, so suitable for organic weed control



# What some of our customers say...

**Martin Hillier**

**Hillier Broadmead Trees**

*"We use Sylvamix Special for all of our containerised trees and the results speak for themselves. It is easy to use, has a good open structure that doesn't compact on potting, is easy to re-wet and always gives excellent results. It also always arrives without delay on the day we want it."*



**Chris Roberts**

**Boverton Nurseries Ltd**

*"We used to use Sylvamix in the past and are very pleased to know that Melcourt are re-launching it this year. An excellent peat-free medium giving great results and it is always good to be able to discuss the product in detail with the manufacturer. We would recommend it to anyone."*



**Michael Cutler**

**Eden Project Watering Lane Nursery**

*"Sylvamix peat-free provides us with an excellent all round growing medium. Here at the Eden Project's Nursery we grow plants from tropical Antheriums to hardy Betula with the pot sizes ranging from 7cm to 70 litre, so we need a good versatile mix."*



**Andy Johnson**

**Wyevale Container Plants Ltd**

*"We have used Melcourt Growbark in our general nursery stock mix for more than 10 years and more recently we have used Potting Bark as a pot mulch. The products do the job really well and the service we get from Melcourt is excellent."*

**Michael Norris**

**New Place Nurseries Ltd**

*"We converted to Melcourt Propagating Bark as a pot mulch around three seasons ago and have not looked back. Not only do we get excellent control of moss and liverwort, but we also reckon on a 20% water-saving in some areas on the nursery."*



**John Richards**

**John Richards Nurseries Ltd**

*"We share the high standards expected by our garden centre customers and have used Melcourt Propagating Bark as a pot-mulch for many years now. This plays a key role in our moss, liverwort and weed control strategy; and provides an enhanced cosmetic value at point of sale."*

*Melcourt's professionalism is second-to-none: deliveries are always on time and we appreciate the technical support we are given when needed."*

**Sara Ritterhausen**

**Burnham Nurseries Ltd**

*"As specialist orchid growers with a long-standing excellent reputation we cannot afford to take chances with our growing media. Melcourt Orchid Bark provides us with the standard we need and we have a very good ongoing dialogue with Melcourt so that any issues are quickly dealt with."*



# Where to buy

- Melcourt professional Grower products are available from our unique network of appointed horticultural distributors.
- Should you have any problems in obtaining Melcourt products, please contact us at the address below.

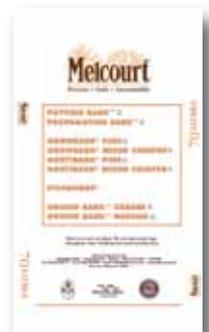


## Available in:

- bulk loose loads, up to 80m<sup>3</sup>
- 1m<sup>3</sup> or 2.5m<sup>3</sup> bulk bags
- 70 litre polythene bags



1m<sup>3</sup> or 2.5m<sup>3</sup> bulk bags



70 litre polythene bags

# Melcourt®

Proven • Safe • Sustainable

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