

Making Compost Blends

Compost mixes from the garden centre are convenient, but can be expensive and often contain peat, which we're all trying to avoid these days. A simple solution is to make your own compost blends. Simply follow the formulas below for your preferred type of compost.

Seed Compost

This is a low nutrient compost with good drainage.

		
Up to 2 parts soil or loam*	1 part leaf mould or homemade compost, or source some fine textured, peat-free compost with no added nutrients	1 part horticultural sharp sand

Potting On & Container Compost

This is a higher nutrient compost and also needs good drainage.

		
Up to 2 parts soil or loam*	1 part home-made compost or peat-free compost	1 part horticultural sharp sand

If using peat free compost without added nutrients, you will need to use organic fertilisers. Try fish blood and bone for macro nutrients and seaweed extract for micro nutrients.

Using home-made compost in your blends has lots of brilliant benefits. Unlike shop-bought compost, it is full of beneficial microbes. These provide free plant nutrition, keeping your plants in top condition. They will travel with your young plants into their final positions in the garden and will do wonders for your soil, helping to keep it open and free draining in wet weather, while simultaneously making your plants more resilient to drought during the heat of summer.

*Make your own loam by stacking and composting blocks of turf. Otherwise, use molehills or garden soil.