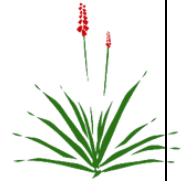




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DURANGO NURSERY & SUPPLY
271 Kay Cee Lane, Durango CO
www.durangonursery.com
970-259-8800



Vermiculite or Perlite

Perlite and vermiculite are both frequently found in potting mixes and soilless mediums. They have different benefits, and when mixing your own medium or amending your own soil, it is important to know which one to use based on your needs.

| | Vermiculite | Perlite |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What it is | A spongy brown silicate mineral with a fairly neutral pH | Porous particles of lightweight, expanded volcanic glass |
| What it does | Retains water in the soil, aids in soil aeration | Helps with soil drainage; retains water to a lesser extent than vermiculite |
| Advantages | Moisture Holding | Drainage, does not decompose and can be reused |
| Disadvantages | Can bog down soil | Can float to the top of soil |
| Best used for: | Seed germination Soilless growing mediums, Soil conditioner for water retention | Cactus, succulents, cutting propagation Soil aeration, adding drainage to clay soils, maintaining more consistent moisture |