

Bijou's Blooms - The Dirt on Good Soil

Three Tried-and-True Soil Recipes for Growing Beautiful Things

Seed Starting Blend

Base Mix:

- 1 part coco coir (or peat moss)
- 1 part vermiculite or perlite

Optional gentle boost:

- Worm castings OR mild organic seedling fertilizer



How to make it

Hydrate and fluff the coir fully; break up clumps.

Blend evenly with perlite for extra air space, or vermiculite for greater moisture retention. Moisten until evenly damp, not dripping. Fill trays loosely; do not pack down.

BIJOU'S TIP - Start seeds without added fertilizer. Once true leaves appear, begin a gentle, diluted seedling feed as appropriate for the crop.



Bijou's Signature Garden & Potting Soil



Our tried-and-true foundation for growing beautiful flowers, healthy herbs, and productive vegetables.

Base Mix(Typically we make this in a wheelbarrow):

- $\frac{1}{3}$ high-quality compost
- $\frac{1}{3}$ screened topsoil
- $\frac{1}{3}$ aeration material (perlite, expanded shale, pine bark fines, or coarse horticultural sand)

Our Signature Nutrient Boost:
AmendmentSuggested Starting Amount

- Worm castings 2–4 cups
- Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus - 1 handful to 1 Cup
- Bone meal - 1 handful
- Greensand or Azomite - Per product label (I typically start with just 1 Cup)

How to Mix It

- 1.Combine equal parts compost, screened topsoil, and aeration material in a wheelbarrow.
- 2.Add the worm castings.
- 3.Sprinkle in the Bio-tone, bone meal, and Azomite.
- 4.Mix thoroughly until everything is evenly distributed.
- 5.Lightly moisten the soil before planting.

IMPORTANT: Wheelbarrow sizes vary. These are Sheri's customary additions, not universal fertilizer rates. Check product labels and soil-test results; skip bone meal when phosphorus is already sufficient. For small pots, increase aeration if the mix stays too wet or heavy.

Bijou's Container Growing Mix

A lighter, coconut-coir-based alternative to the Signature
potting recipe

THE RECIPE

- Hydrated coconut coir
- 10 gallons Finished compost
- 5 gallons Worm castings
- 2 gallons Organic vermiculite
- 8 quarts Azomite (optional) Up to 5 cups*



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Hydrate and fluff the coconut coir before measuring.
2. Mix in compost, then worm castings.
3. Fold in vermiculite and any chosen amendment.
4. Moisten and check texture before planting.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOUR PLANTS - Coir and vermiculite both hold moisture. For pots that remain soggy, replace some vermiculite with perlite or pine bark fines. This blend may need additional nutrients as plants grow; use plant-appropriate feeding and monitor drainage.



*Five cups of Azomite is part of the original large-batch recipe, not a universal recommendation. Check the specific product label and your soil or media needs before using it.

FIVE HABITS FOR HAPPIER ROOTS

- Start with drainage - Water should move through the mix without leaving roots saturated.
- Keep it loose - Do not compact potting media or seed-starting trays.
- Water with intention - Check moisture below the surface, not just on top.
- Feed thoughtfully - More amendments are not always better; test existing garden soil.
- Match the plant - Acid-loving plants and specialty crops may need a different approach.



A NOTE FROM THE GARDEN

These are our everyday foundations, not one-size-fits-all formulas. Plants with special pH, drainage, or nutrient needs call for a more tailored plan. That is where experience makes a difference.

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