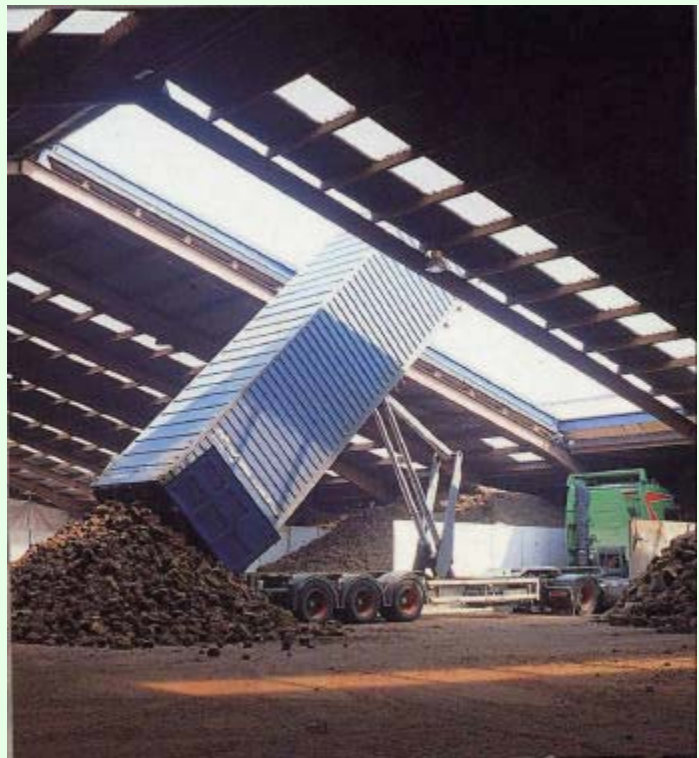




Tref EGO

SUBSTRATES



The growing power



QUALITY, CUSTOMISED SUBSTRATES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GROWERS PRODUCING PLANTS INTO NEW CHALLENGING MARKET PLACES.



TREF EGO AND FARGRO

Tref bv comprises of five soil substrate companies De Baat bv, Dega bv, Griendtsveen bv, Veldkamp bv and Tref EGO. It is one of the top three suppliers of peat based substrates for the European Market.

Tref EGO prides itself in producing customised mixes which are targeted for special crops and special growing situations. Technical expertise and quality of production is the main thrust of this company and all efforts are directed towards improving the quality and consistency of substrate products for growers in the commercial sector. Tref EGO are main stream suppliers for the European market, for ornamentals, vegetables and fruit market. They supply more than 20% of Boskoops Nursery Stock mixes.

Fargro Ltd; who are an established and well known horticultural company to the grower market has teamed up with Tref EGO in order to develop the sales in the UK by meeting grower requirements on all levels in an ever changing market.

CUSTOMISED PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Tref has two mixing plants in Coevorden and Schoonebeek, which deliver bulk and packed product. These installations are computer controlled ensuring that each mix has a unique batch number. Sophisticated equipment ensures that bulk raw materials are accurately fed from the hopper to the conveyor belts. Lime, Pg-mix and, where appropriate other components are fed directly onto the conveyer belt. Mixing intended for bulk loading takes place in a special mixing drum and mixing for the bagging plant uses a mixing-screening installation. At the bulk-loading plant, production loads are produced to order and transported directly to the grower. This is different from the bagging plant where standard mixtures are produced for stock. That is, minimum stocks are kept for each mixture from Tref's standard program. Specials are always produced to order and are planned-in on a weekly basis, which is why the ordering time to delivery is approximately 5-7 days.

Tref EGO is a leader in the grower market for substrates due to the countless blends (approximately 4,000) that it can offer to its customers. These blends are specially produced to suit specific growing methods and conditions in order to provide the best possible results. Naturally - to guarantee the superior quality of these products - only raw materials of the very highest quality are used in formulating the various substrates.

All of the materials processed by Tref EGO come under the supervision of the Stichting Regeling Handels Potgronden (Commercial Potting - compost regulatory organisation or R.H.P.) - a recognised institute that monitors the quality of substrates.

RAW MATERIALS

PEAT

Tref EGO has quality peat reserves in Russia, Sweden, Ireland, Finland, Baltic States, Norway and Germany.

Tref EGO own their own bogs in Estonia which enables them to secure vast reserves of young white peat (to supplement their other stock), which is block cut and harvested throughout their summer and is consistent in its quality.

SCREENING PROCESSES

All raw materials have been screened to a consistent particle size to ensure that the correct fractions are produced in order to meet strict specifications according to the mix.

These sizes will depend on the use for the substrate, the way it will be irrigated and of course the species involved.



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WHITE PEAT

White Peat is present in the upper layer of a sphagnum peat bog. The breakdown of these organic remains is not complete and the structure of the peat is therefore still recognisable. The anatomical structure of the sphagnum shows that it has a high capillarity and has an exceptionally high volume of air, because the cellular structure is preserved.

The peat is excavated in the shape of "blocks". After being taken out by hand, these peat blocks are then naturally dried by sun and wind. After this the peat blocks are collected and stored as winter stocks, after which it is available for growers the following season.



BLACK PEAT

By definition, the deeper layers of the peat bog are "older" and therefore breakdown of the peat is greater. The organic remains are not recognisable.

Black Peat must be spread over fields in its wet state and be thoroughly frozen in winter.

Tref EGO produces frozen black peat. This process takes place during the winter and the early spring. The structure of the black peat changes as a result of frost to a degree that it changes its physical qualities. After thorough freezing, black peat changes into frozen black peat, a product that can absorb and yield water.

FRESH CLAY

For a number of reasons the addition of clay has positive effects on the quality of the plant. The clay used by Tref EGO all comes from the southern Netherlands and Germany.

This clay is extracted from a depth of 14 metres under the surface. This clay has a high percentage of organic matter and is relatively light in weight. The fresh clay is also available in a mix with 10% white peat.

VULKAKORRELS®

Vulkakorrels® consist of inert material of volcanic origin and is made of Bentenile. The material is extracted from the layer of pumice that was laid down at the foot of the volcano after eruptions from Hekla on Iceland. The product is free of weeds and disease due to the very low temperature of the region. Vulkakorrels® is extracted from open cast mines, washed and screened (2-6mm) and then used in substrates.

BARK

Tref EGO can supply a wide range of bark fractions from *Pinus maratinus*. This bark does not compost in the pot and therefore is much more stable in keeping its structure throughout the life of the crop.

TP2F

This incredible bonding material which is exclusive to Tref EGO produces superb plugs that are stable and promote excellent rooting.

These plugs do not fall apart producing a more consistent, reliable and superior product, which will transplant earlier and result in less root damage.

TP2F has great application when a more open white peat is used to create the ideal growing conditions where creation aeration is permanent but where water holding is essential.

Blocking substrates using white peat are a reality when using TP2F.

Chrysanthemum Plug Growers have seen great advantages in using TP2F when the more open plug reduces the incidences of *pythium* and *rhizoctonia*, which in turn reduces the need for spraying.

Plugs grow more vigorously than that from conventionally block produced plants.

Finally the shelf life of the product will be enhanced with the use of TP2F.

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COMPALOX

COMPALOX® is an activated aluminium oxide, which has a very high affinity for P adsorption and desorption.

Incorporation of COMPALOX® P buffers into the growth substrate can be used as a technique to maintain predetermined and stable P concentrations in the growth substrate. This is of interest for different purposes, for example:

- 1) Plant growth regulation using reduced P availability as an alternative method to chemical growth regulation.
- 2) Enhancing root growth due to reduced P availability increases root to shoot ratio.
- 3) Improving the keeping quality of the plant by reduced and regulated P availability.
- 4) Stimulating plant growth (shoot and root) by using a high P buffer.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Alternative to chemical growth regulation
Enhancing root growth
Improving keeping quality
Stimulating shoot and root growth

OTHER RAW MATERIALS

Rice Husks, Coir Peat, Coir Fibre, Sand and Perlite.

NUTRITION and pH

Our substrate mixes are based on peat, which contains very few nutrients and has a low pH. Consequently, the pH needs to be adjusted upwards by adding more basic components such as calcium carbonate, and all the necessary nutrients need to be added - the main ones being calcium, nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, magnesium and sulphate. In addition, six trace elements are particularly important: manganese, copper, zinc, iron, molybdenum and boron.

Peat is naturally acidic, with a pH (H₂O) range of about 3.5 - 4.5. Because most crops grow optimally at lower acidities, just about all Tref substrates are 'limed' with calcium and magnesium carbonates. So this adds the elements Ca and Mg. The amount and type of carbonate added depends on the specific requirements of the crop or the cultivation method.

Osmocote, Multicote and Basecoat can be added. Base fertilisation using 1kg of PG Mix 15.10.20 is standard.

AGROCHEMICALS

suSCon Green® and certain other chemical constituents can be added according to growing requirements.

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TREF EGO PRODUCTS

SPECIALITY SUBSTRATES

PROPAGATION (H Programme)

Substrates for seed sowing and cutting must have a fine structure and have a relatively high air capacity. Optimum quality is determined by the correct addition of specially selected sphagnum peat. The substrates are exactly tailored to the grower's requirements. The H1 substrate, a specially developed seed substrate is a mixture of sphagnum peat, frozen black peat and sand in which the seeds can germinate very quickly. In H2, used as substrate for cuttings, the peat is partly replaced with perlite resulting in easier, more effective drainage of excess water.

POT PLANTS (BF Programme)

Tref EGO has developed a series of substrates for the commercial pot plant grower. These substrates are closely linked to the growers specific wishes and we can supply mixes for Begonia, Cyclamen, New Guinea, Geraniums and Fuschias. There are 10 mixes available. The higher the mix number the higher the air capacity and stability of the structure of the substrate.

POT BEDDING

A range of substrates are available for tray and pot bedding for pots up to 10cm size and all bedding plant packs.

NURSERY STOCK (N Programme)

Tref EGO supplies substrates, graded according to the growing period of the plant and are used for trees, shrubs and conifers. The longer this period the more stable the structure must be. There are 3 substrates available. This is achieved by increasing the white peat fraction in the substrate.

Typical Mixes

Ericaceous and Non-Ericaceous.

Container mix for 1-5 Litre Containers

Container mix for 5 Litre Containers upwards

Speciality mixes ie; Skimmia, Rhododendrons, Pieris and Acer

SPECIALS

Due to the wide range of raw materials and additives, a special mixture can be put together to suit any situation. The plant type, cultivation system, cultivation time, water quality and watering system are taken into account. There is plenty of expertise on hand to ascertain from growers their own particular requirements.

PAPER POT MIXES

Tref EGO can supply a range of substrates for paper pot production to suit different environmental situations. We can also supply paper pot products complete on pallets.

SOFT FRUIT

We have a range of quality mixes for strawberries including:

Strawberry Tray for propagation

Strawberry Production for fruiting transplants.

BLOCKING (P Programme)

PRESS POTS

The P-programme includes substrates for press pots and trays. Blocks of Tref potting soil from the blocking machine are light in structure, allowing the plant's roots to develop to optimum effect. The mixture keeps the water well-contained, is airy and hardly shrinks. The P-programme consists of four standard types (P1 to P4), with an increasing amount of white peat in the mixture. The higher the percentage sphagnum, the higher the air capacity. The P-programme can be delivered in 70 litre bags, big bales and in bulk.

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ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Eko - Programme (Organic/Bio Substrate) - The greater demand for more ecologically geared products is a major growth area for Tref EGO.

An increasing number of growers of vegetable crops are using Tref EGO's Eko programme.

Tref EGO will work to match the certification standard for the UK ie; Soil Association. A number of options are available in this range.

TREE PLANTING SUBSTRATES

PEAT

ESTONIAN PEAT MOSS - 100% WHITE PEAT

- > Made from high grade Estonian peat moss (sphagnum)
- > Is peat produced at selected and controlled areas
- > Is free from weeds, diseases and impurities
- > Is consistent in terms of structure
- > Has a high water and air capacity

Fine, Medium, Standard and Coarse pH4.
225 EN & 320 Litres + 6,000 Litres.



**TODDINGTON LANE
LITTLEHAMPTON
WEST SUSSEX
BN17 7PP**

Tel No: 01903 721591 Direct Sales No: 01903 726100 Fax No: 01903 730737
www.fargro.co.uk e-mail: promos@fargro.co.uk

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