

BONSAI POTTING MIX.

A good Bonsai soil is rather a growing medium, as bonsai soil should not have any or very little soil. By Soil I refer to fine sand and clay. There may be a small advantage by adding soil to plants that require [mycorrhizae](#), and mycorrhizae, being a beneficial fungus is found in soil. Fine particles should be limited due to their compaction nature and water retention ability, which can damage restrict root development.

A trees roots requires water, nutrition and air. A good growing medium provides all of these requirements and more. Certain species will require more moisture and water retention properties, while others will want a different PH structure. It stand to reason that your optimum mixture will depend on the species being grown, which goes back to the climatic condition wherein the tree occurs naturally. e.g. a swamp cypress from the Florida Everglades requires different condition to an Acacia from the dry bushveld.

The first component is sharp fine aggregate (sharp stone or sand of 2mm-5mm). The particle should not be able to fit together tightly, by leaving spaces for water air and nutrition. The particles should be inert and not be able to break down into clay. This allows quick drainage, fine root growth and air into the soil.

The second major component should consist of fine sifted humus (compost) which is the required nutrition. The compost should be well composted as this will release higher quantities of nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Clearly the better the quality of nutrition, the better the growth and the less the weeds. Very often, depending on the type of tree, loam, super phosphate and acid compost is added for optimal growth.

By changing the percentage of organic to inorganic mixture as well as particle size and ph, one can change the whole mix.

