

Coco Peat

Coco peat is the fine spongy material left after the extraction of the coir from the coconut husk. It is also known as coir pith or coir dust.²⁶

Uses of Coco Peat:

Cutflower Production. Cocopeat is an excellent growing medium for roses. When used in flowers cultivation, it gives a better flower quality.

Rainwater saving. Cocopeat can store up to 750 to 1100% of its dry weight, making it suitable for storing rainwater to sustain water requirements of plants in the absence of a water supply system.

Biofiltration. Cocopeat can be used as component of primary and secondary bio-filtration systems. It can remove up to 90% of organic matter, suspended solids and pathogenic bacteria.

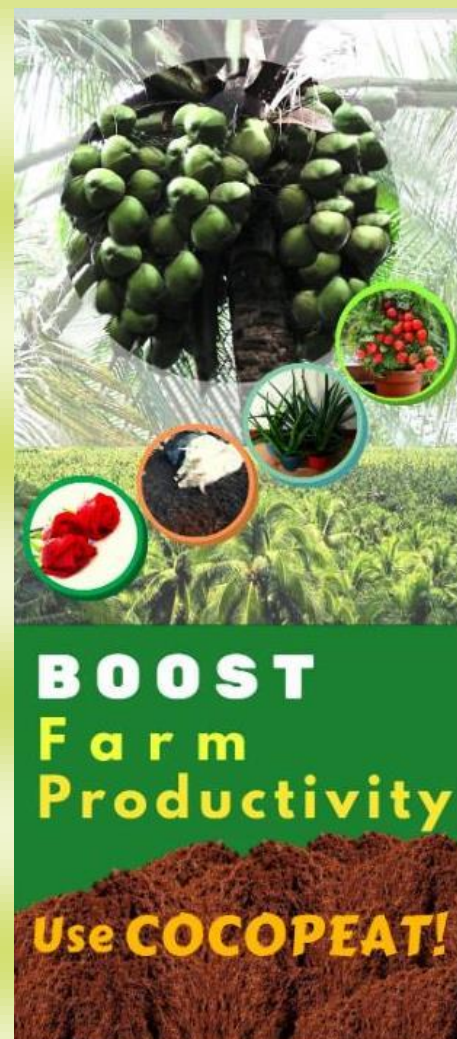
Plant Productivity Booster. It promotes water uptake of the plant, thus, increasing the weight and height or length of the stems, which helps the plants absorb more nutrients.

Animal Bedding. Cocopeat, with appropriate moisture, is an eco-friendly animal bedding material because of its high bulk density, high moisture absorption capacity and biodegradability. It provides soft bed cushioning effect and effectively absorbs animal urine.

Potting Mixture for Urban and Landscape Gardening. In landscaping, cocopeat is used to improve soil structure for increasing water holding capacity. It may be added to an extent of 20 to 50% by volume to a potting mixture.

Benefits and advantages as organic plant supplement:

- ✓ Contains high organic matter which improves soil structure and promotes soil microbial activity for plant growth
- ✓ Holds water 7.5 to 11 times its weight
- ✓ Resistant to bacterial and fungal growth. High lignin content promotes the development of favorable micro-organisms
- ✓ Stores and releases nutrients to plants for extended period because of its high cation exchange capacity
- ✓ Promotes healthy root development and enhances root penetration due to its good oxygenation properties
- ✓ Provides the suitable neutral to slight acidity or pH level required by most crops



²⁶ Coconut Product Brochures, Philippine Coconut Authority, www.pca.gov.ph. Accessed on 07 June 2020.