

To learn more about coconut coir, please visit the following websites for the latest scientific research:

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2017/04/horticultural-peat.pdf>

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/coir-sustainable-alternative-peat-moss-garden>

<http://extension.wsu.edu/spokane/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2017/07/C130-Soil-Amendments-16.pdf>

**For more information
visit the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic
May through September
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

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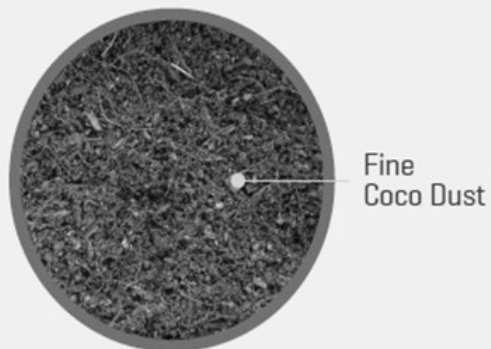


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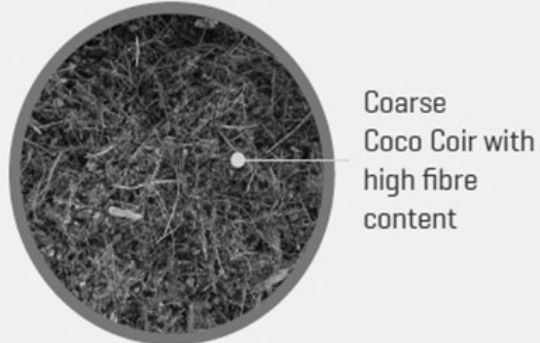
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March 2018 Satnik

Coconut Coir VS Peat Moss



Fine
Coco Dust



Coarse
Coco Coir with
high fibre
content



Coarse
Coco Coir
with high chip
content

Coconut coir is a readily renewable, pH-neutral, non-hydrophobic soil amendment that aerates, improves water retention, and is more environmentally friendly than peat moss.

Embracing a Better Soil Amendment

Coconut Coir

Pros:

- Neutral pH is better for plants
- Byproduct of food industry—keeps the coir out of landfills
- Readily renewable resource
- Compacted bales/bricks reduce shipping and storage size and are rehydrated on site
- Aerates soil well
- Promotes moisture holding capability of soil with less water (less hydrophobic than peat)
- Cation exchange capacity is higher

Cons:

- Can be harder to find in bulk
- Generally shipped from overseas
- Used to have high salt content, but this is no longer a concern

Notes:

Salt content was sometimes a problem with coir in the past, but current processing methods prevent this issue.



Above: Compressed bricks of coconut coir are easy to ship, store, and handle.

Left: Coir is made from the outer husks of coconuts that are grown for food, oil, and other fiber products.

Right: Bogs are strip-mined for the acidic and carbon-rich peat moss traditionally beloved by gardeners world-wide.

Peat Moss

Pros:

- Easy to find
- Aerates soils well
- Promotes moisture holding capability of soil when enough water is consistently applied

Cons:

- More acidic than most garden plants prefer
- Hydrophobic: once dry, is very hard to rewet
- Strip-mining peat causes massive environmental and cultural resource damage

Notes:

Peat moss sold in the US generally comes from Canada, so the shipping distance is less than coconut coir. Sea travel uses less fossil fuel than trucking, though, so shipping costs are about the same for either medium.

