



Tech Talk: Rainforest Blend



Product Purpose:

Designed specifically for growing indoor foliage crops, vegetables, and herbs...

Technical specs:

pH: 5.5 – 6.5
Soluble salts: 0.40 – 1.5 mmhos/cm
Nitrate: N – 10 – 50 ppm
Phosphorus: – 5 – 10 ppm
Potassium: 50 – 100 ppm
Calcium: 8 – 30 ppm
Magnesium: 5 – 25 ppm

Product composition:

Formulated to provide a slow release, nutrient rich growing mix with good drainage, and develop strong, healthy root systems for maximum foliar growth...

Rationale/function of each ingredient:

SS Advanced Rainforest Blend contains coconut fiber for nutrient and water retention. The addition of fine bark provides physical stability for long term growing. The use of compost and worm castings adds a slow release source of nutrients along with beneficial microorganisms. The organic nutrient pack along with humic acid, alfalfa meal and kelp meal gives a good dose of starter fertilizer to get your plants going. And our endomycorrhizal blend enhances the ability of containerized plants to access the nutrients in the root zone.

Trial summary:

Our Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend formula was tested in our own greenhouses to develop the best combination of water retention, air porosity and nutrient availability. Various formulations were trialed using a range of herb and vegetable plants until we came up with the ideal blend of bark, coir, compost and perlite. In addition, using our in house lab, we examined the roots for mycorrhizal colonization to ensure that Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend would enhance mycorrhizal growth. Ongoing testing in our trial greenhouses ensures that Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend will continue to provide the maximum results you expect from all Sunshine products.

Cultivation tips:

Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend is designed to provide a perfect background to your own fertility program. We've included a starter organic fertilizer along with humic acid, kelp meal and alfalfa meal to give an initial boost to your seedlings or transplants and to supply a background fertility over the course of your growing season. You should start your own feed program within 14 days of planting or seedling emergence. Mycorrhizae prefer a low phosphorus feed for optimal growth so during the plant's active foliar growth stage, please use a high nitrogen, low phosphorus feed such as Sunshine Advanced Plant Fuels (Max Growth and Max Flowers formulations)

Formula Bio-actives:

Using endomycorrhizae means you only get the mycorrhizal species that actually work with garden, foliage, vegetable and herb plants. Other growing mixes offer ectomycorrhizae as part of their mycorrhizal blend – but ectomycorrhizae only work for plants such as pines, spruces and firs. Why pay for an ingredient that isn't going to benefit your plants? Using a growing media with a blend of endomycorrhizae insures that your plants will derive the maximum benefit from the same fungi that colonize their roots in nature.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What makes Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend unique?
Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend contains coir, a byproduct of processing coconuts. Coir has unique properties of high aeration coupled with excellent water retention and nutrient retention and is frequently used in growing mixes to aid in rapid rewetting of the mix. The addition of compost helps to retain nutrients as well.
2. What are mycorrhizae?
Mycorrhizae are a group of fungi which form a symbiotic relationship with plants in nature. These important fungi colonize a plant's root system, sending their hyphae out into the surrounding soil to seek out nutrients. It is estimated that 90% of the world's plants are dependent on mycorrhizae in their native habitats. The addition of mycorrhizae in this growing mix provides for optimized plant performance even in containers.
3. Why should I use mycorrhizae in my potting soil?
The same benefits apply to potting soils. Mycorrhizae will help the root system take up nutrients and may provide a vigorous, stronger root system. If you transplant into a garden soil, the presence of mycorrhizae will also assist in drought tolerance and will continue to grow along with your plant, continuing to seek out nutrients.
4. Why does Sunshine Advanced contain an organic fertilizer?
Our custom designed organic fertilizer consisting of feathermeal and sulfate of potash gives your plants an initial gentle boost of fertility. Sunshine Advanced Rainforest Blend also includes kelpmeal, alfalfa meal and humic acid for improved nutritional value. The organic fertilizer is a low phosphorus feed so it will not interfere with the establishment of the mycorrhizae in the root zone.
5. So I need to use a low phosphorus feed?
That is correct. While the mycorrhizae is growing along with your plant, please use a feed containing less than 10% phosphorus, such as the Sunshine Advanced Plant Fuels.. Mycorrhizae will not be active in soils with higher phosphorus levels. Look for a fertilizer where the second number is less than 10.
6. Where can I go for more information on Sunshine Advanced products?
You can refer to our website at www.SunshineAdvanced.com and find additional information on the full Sunshine Advanced product line.