RAW MATERIALS
Containermulch

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Organic top dressing for pots and containers

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Containermulch

Several years ago, Klasmann-Deilmann developed an environmentally friendly top dressing to prevent the growth of algae and weeds. Containermulch is made of softwood from sustainably managed forests (PEFC-certified). The wood has been thermally treated to avoid phytosanitary risks.

Containermulch is fast drying, permeable to water and breaks up water drops, so the top layer does not become air-tight. This makes it more difficult for algae, mosses and weeds to grow.

One of the key properties of a substrate is that it retains large amounts of water and nutrients. This makes the substrate's top layer susceptible to germination of weed seeds and moss spores. Often a green layer of algae is first formed, on top of which various unwanted organisms then grow.

In the past, the use of chemical herbicides was an adequate solution. Nowadays, most of these effective herbicides are no longer allowed, and their use is under strong pressure from an environmental point of view.

Containermulch can be applied with any dispensing device. For optimum results, it is important that it is applied uniformly and in a sufficiently thick layer. The use of Containermulch means that pots and containers are virtually free of algae and weeds, the substrate dries out more slowly, and the shrub or tree has a much better look.

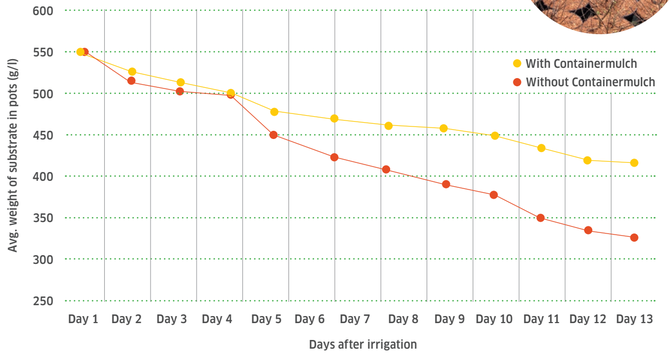
Benefits and properties

Benefits
- Excellent moss and weed prevention
- Optimum coverage (adhesive properties)
- Reduced drying of substrate
- Very low waste caused by wind or during transport
- Natural appearance

Properties
- Made of fresh, bark-free softwood (2 – 10 mm)
- Safe for crops; intensive thermal treatment during manufacturing process
- From sustainably managed forests (PEFC)
- Contains natural mineral pigments that are plant and environmentally safe
- Manufacturing process is RHP and ISO 14001 certified
- Permeable to water, fast drying
- Available in bulk, Big Bales or 70-litre bags

Reduced irrigation and improved shelf life

Effect of Containermulch on water balance in 3-litre pots



Containermulch reduces evaporation from the substrate. The graph demonstrates this by showing a reduction in the weight of 3-litre pots, both filled with substrate, but one covered with Containermulch and the other one uncovered. Reduced evaporation means that more water remains in the pot. Over 13 days, water loss in the pots without Containermulch is 1.8 times higher than in covered pots. Thus, the use of Containermulch also means that water and fertilisers can be applied much more economically and plants grown in pots that are covered with Containermulch benefit from a better shelf life.

Average amount of Containermulch required for different pot sizes

Pot size	Volume needed for 1000 pots (in litres)	Number of pots per cubic metre of Containermulch
9 cm ø	120 – 130	7850
10 cm ø	150 – 170	6350
12 cm ø	220 – 240	4400
14 cm ø	300 – 320	3250
15 cm ø	340 – 370	2850
2.0 l container	430 – 460	2250
3.0 l container	560 – 590	1750
5.0 l container	790 – 820	1250
10.0 l container	1260 - 1290	800

Instructions for optimum use

1 Make sure the pots are covered with a layer of at least 1.5 cm of Containermulch, depending on pot size. Careful execution of this process by skilled personnel helps to ensure excellent weed prevention.

2 After application, the plants must be watered thoroughly to ensure adequate bonding of the mulching layer that is insusceptible to wind or falling over.

3 The use of Containermulch reduces evaporation from the substrate. This means that the watering frequency and the amount of water given must be adjusted to prevent overwatering. Especially in heavy and dense substrates the irrigation frequency must be reduced to ensure sufficient drainage and ventilation of the substrate. It may be advisable to change to a less dense substrate, such as one based on GreenFibre®, a wood fibre produced by Klasmann-Deilmann.

4 For optimum weed prevention the Container-mulch must be allowed to dry out after each irrigation. This will secure a stable and dry top layer, reducing the germination of weeds. Thus, good ventilation is specifically recommended for achieving the best results, especially in greenhouses and polytunnels.

5 As Containermulch reduces the amount of substrate in the pot by a layer of 1.5 – 2.5 cm, it also has to be considered to adjust the fertilisation of the substrate accordingly. The amount of base fertiliser and/or controlled-release fertiliser must be raised in the substrate in order to keep the similar level of nutrition per pot.

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