



# **Mastering the Craft of Growing Media**

Berger is a worldwide leader in the production of high-quality growing media. Since 1963, Berger's team of specialists has used a client-focused approach that meets the specific needs of its customers' crops. For professional growers, this means consistent growth, predictable results, reliable supply, and moreover, trustworthy technical support. From start to finish, how you grow matters as much as what you grow. Quality, consistency, and technical expertise are our trademarks.

# **The Berger Team**

Berger's team includes over 800 employees in various locations in the Americas, working in many fields of expertise: harvesting, processing, research and development, greenhouse and laboratory, sales and customer services, administration, human resources, IT and programming, logistics and transportation, equipment design and much more. Every individual contributes to the strength of the team, carrying out their daily work in a spirit of family cooperation. It is this dedication and friendly working environment that enables Berger to continue to grow and flourish.



# **Berger Production & Distribution**

Berger's headquarters in Saint-Modeste, near Rivière-du-Loup, Québec, is a true source of pride for the region. In addition, with our many harvesting sites, five mixing plants and four peat processing plants strategically located throughout the Americas, Berger can reliably meet the needs of our customers, consistently offering high-quality products, season after season. Our harvesting sites across Canada help ensure the ample stocks of peat needed to honour our contractual commitments.

Berger products are distributed in over 20 countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea and several Central American countries. Noted for their quality and consistency, our products are backed by our vast expertise.



■ Watsonville

■ Sulphur Spring

△ 13 Harvesting Sites

■ 9 Processing Plants



# **Experience the Berger Difference**

As a global leader in the production of high-quality growing media, Berger's most important mission is to build a rock-solid partnership between our business and yours. Our team is dedicated to helping you improve your growing methods – from start to finish. We'll be by your side every step of the way to provide details about our products and ensure that you get the right growing mixes when you need them. We are committed to your complete satisfaction, so we make sure you have access to all the expertise that comes with every bag of growing media.

# A Wide Range of Analysis and Technical Services

Recognized in the industry for its growing expertise, Berger has a team of specialists dedicated to finding proven and innovative solutions for your production needs. Our expert scientists accompany professional growers like you throughout the growing cycle, helping to boost growth while optimizing and streamlining operations.

You can even ask to have one of our grower advisors visit your facilities. They will provide a personalized approach to help you achieve your business objectives.

Our goal is to better understand your production challenges so we can recommend the best solutions.

Our multidisciplinary team can also carry out a wide variety of chemical and physical analyses, including:

- Saturated Media Extract (SME) analysis;
- Water and nutrient analyses;
- Tissue analyses;
- · Complete physical characterization.

Our experts make a point of providing a practical interpretation of your results to ensure that you get the full benefit of these analyses. Talk to your sales representative for complete details.





# **Berger Mixes**

Whether for plant propagation, greenhouse or nursery production of flowers, vegetables, berries and green leaves, one of the substrates from our extensive product line will suit your particular needs. At Berger, we pride ourselves on our ability to manufacture high-quality growing media by creating a uniform and strong root environment year after year.



**Propagation** 

# **Seed Germination &**

This fine grade substrate line ensures a perfect contact with the seed or stem and maintains optimal moisture for uniform germination and rapid rooting. From plug trays to paper pots, from ornamentals to vegetables, this series is distinctively formulated to form a consistent root ball for efficient transplantation.



# **Natural Fibers**

Aggregate free, this series is made exclusively from natural fibers. Thanks to the careful handling of our peat moss and the use of innovative alternative materials to create a stabilized root environment, these mixes offer consistent physical characteristics for predictable results.



# **Natural Fibers &** Aggregate

The BM5 product line utilizes both natural fibers and aggregates to create a wide variety of soil structures that are well adapted to different environmental conditions or precisely designed for specific applications.



# **All-Purpose**

This classic peat-perlite series of all-purpose mixes offers an assortment of drainage options that are adapted for a wide variety of growing environments, making it one of our most popular products



#### Bark

Produced with mature pine bark, the BM7 series is formulated to maintain optimal drainage for long-term containerized production of perennials, shrubs and trees. These mixes provide an outdoor productions.



# **Water Saving**

With the addition of our high quality composted peat moss, these products provide beneficial microorganisms to enhance plant growth. This product line increases the available water reserve and excellent anchor for indoor and its distribution within the container, improving shelf life in box stores and retail centers.



# **Organic Mixes**

Composed entirely of materials authorized for use in organic agriculture, the OM product series is ideal for growers who want to break into this dynamic and rapidly expanding market. Whether for edibles or ornamentals, there is an OM product tailored for every growth stage of your organic crops.



# **Seed Germination & Propagation**

This fine grade substrate line authorized for organic production ensures perfect contact with the seed or stem and optimizes moisture for uniform germination and rapid rooting. From plug trays to paper pots, ornamentals to vegetables, this series is distinctively formulated to form a consistent root ball for efficient transplantation



# **All-Purpose**

Authorized for organic production, this classic peat-perlite series of all-purpose mixes offers an assortment of drainage options that are adapted for a wide variety of organic growing environments. making it one of our most popular products.



# **Sun Land Mixes**

The SM series takes its origin from Sun Land Garden Products and is manufactured in California specifically for the Western US





#### Greenhouse

**Specialties** 

The SM greenhouse product line is specifically designed for greenhouse production of potted vegetables, ornamentals, annuals & perennials. It offers a wide variety of substrates with diverse airwater ratio adapted to each greenhouse environment.

The SM specialty product line



# **Propagation**

The SM propagation product line is made from carefully-selected components of various particles sizes blended to fit your specific seedling and cutting production needs. It allows uniform filling of flats and trays for seed germination and cutting production of vegetables & annuals.



# **Organic**

Made with 100% components listed by OMRI, the SMO product line is ideal for growers who want to break into this dynamic and rapidly-growing sector of the industry. Whether for fruits, vegetables, herbs, or even ornamental plants, an organic certified mix is available for every growth stage.



# Canning

The SM canning product line is predominantly manufactured with different grades of redwood to cater the particular challenges of the nursery industry. Blended with other high-quality components, these redwoods mixes are ideal to grow trees, shrubs, perennials and many more.



Berger's proven natural Wood Fiber is NOW AVAILABLE in our SM products. Contact your dedicated sales representative for the complete list of NEW PRODUCTS.

# **All-Purpose**





# **BM4 Natural Fiber - Wood HP**

## Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

Looking for a perlite- free alternative? This blend of Canadian sphagnum peat moss and NF Wood is designed for increased porosity and easy access to available water. Make the switch without compromising on quality or radical changes in feed and irrigation programs.

#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- The best proven balance of peat and NF Wood without affecting your fertility program.
- Increased efficiency. Very rapid air diffusion for fast and healthy root growth.
- Easily available water to reduce plant stress.
- All-natural and biodegradable main components.
- Reduce handling with more yield per bag.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade wood fiber
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



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# **BM5 Natural Fiber & Aggregate - Wood**

## Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

The combination of Canadian sphagnum peat moss, NF Wood and perlite offers a good balance between drainage and water retention. Includes all the benefits of the wood fiber with the security of perlite.



- Innovative and unique substrate structure.
- Designed for rapid root development.
- · Uniform and stable for even growth.

## **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade wood fiber
- Coarse grade perlite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- · Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



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# **BM6 All-Purpose**

#### Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

The classic peat-and-perlite growing medium is made exclusively with superior ingredients and stringent quality-control specifications. Benefit from easy inventory management with this versatile and adaptable mix.

# FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Most versatile Berger product.
- Easy to manage under varied conditions and container sizes.
- Recognized as a best-value product for many crops.
- Consistent and uniform for predictable results.

# INGREDIENTS

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



# **BM7 Bark**

## Incubated pH = 5.5 - 6.5

All-purpose bark mix providing additional weight and a balanced air-to-water ratio. Designed for both greenhouse and outdoor productions in southern and mid-western USA, this mix allows excess water to drain rapidly.



#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Longer dry-down cycle for warmer climates
- Heavier weight for superior stability in larger containers
- Provides more weight to anchor trees, shrubs and perennials
- Stable structure for long-term crops

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Bark
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Adapted fertilizer starter charge



# **OM6 All Purpose**

## Incubated pH =5.5 - 6.5

The classic peat-and-perlite growing medium is authorized for organic production and made exclusively with superior ingredients. Benefit from easy inventory management with this versatile and adaptable mix.



# FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- OMRI listed.
- Easy to manage under varied conditions and container sizes.
- Recognized as a best-value product for many crops.
- Consistent and uniform for predictable results.

## INGREDIENTS

Premium selected coarse grade peat moss

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- Coarse grade perlite
- Composted peat moss
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Organic wetting agent

# Seed Germination & Propagation



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# **BM2 Natural Fiber - Wood**

Incubated pH = 5.2 Å 6.0

This unique combination of Canadian sphagnum peat moss and fine grade NF Wood maintains uniform moisture levels around the seed or cutting to stimulate root initiation.

## **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Faster production cycle.
- Plugs hold together for better transplant success.
- Easy transition from traditional seed germination products.
- Uniform structure for even growth.

## **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected fine grade peat moss
- Fine grade wood fiber





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# **BM2 Natural Fiber - Wood HP**

Incubated pH = 5.2 Å 6.0

Ideal for veggie transplant productions, this mix provides good drainage and wickability to produce sturdier, more compact shoots. The highly porous structure promotes fast root development, shortening the overall production cycle.

#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Faster production cycle.
- High porosity for fast and healthy root development.
- Reduced plant stretching.
- Less handling with up to 13% additional volume per compressed bale.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected fine grade peat moss
- Fine grade wood fiber
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard seedling fertilizer starter charge



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# **BM2 Seed Germination**

Incubated pH = 5.2 Å 6.0

High-performance, general-purpose plug mix for unmatched uniformity during seed germination and seedling production Designed for seamless flow through tray filling system, this blend of fine grade peat moss, perlite and vermiculite can be used with most production systems and cultural conditions.

# **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Versatile product ideal for wide array of crops.
- Easy-to-use mix fills small cells perfectly for consistent growth.
- Balanced water-to-air ratio for a healthy root systom.
- Low fertilizer starter charge lets you control your feed strategy.
- Vermiculite helps maintain optimal moisture around the seed.

# INGREDIENTS

- Premium selected fine grade peat moss
- Fine grade perlite
- Fine grade vermiculite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard seedling fertilizer starter charge



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# **BM2 Propagation HP**

Incubated pH = 5.2 Å 6.0

Made with coarse-grade perlite to provide superior drainage and aeration, this growing medium is our most porous propagation mix designed to rapidly evacuate excess water.



- High drainage propagation mix.
- Low stick content. Ideal for paper pot systems.
- Stay in control of your feed program with our
- reduced fertilizer starter charge.

# **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected fine grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard seedling fertilizer starter charge



# **OM2 Seed Germination**

Incubated pH = 5.2 Å 6.0





## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- · OMRI listed.
- Versatile product ideal for wide array of crops.
- Balanced water-to-air ratio for a healthy root system
- Vermiculite helps maintain optimal moisture around the seed.

# INGREDIENTS

- Premium selected fine grade peat moss
- Fine grade perlite
- Fine grade vermiculite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Organic wetting agent

# Drainage





# **BM5 Natural Fiber & Aggregate - Wood HP**

For crops that require a more porous substrate, this combination of Canadian sphagnum peat moss, NF Wood and perlite provides excellent drainage capacity reducing the incidence of water stress and stimulating rapid root development.

#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Increased air space for fast and healthy root growth.
- Drain excess water quickly.
- With wood fiber, get more volume per bale compared to traditional mixes.
- Higher drainage capacity for better control on your fertilizer program.

## **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade wood fiber
- Coarse grade perlite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



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# **BM7 Bark HP**

Incubated pH = 5.5 - 6.5

High bark content provides excellent porosity while giving additional weight for anchor. Designed for both greenhouse and outdoor productions in the southern and mid-western USA, this mix allows excess water to drain rapidly.

# **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

• Uniform and long-lasting bark mix.

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- · Heavy weight for superior stability in larger containers.
- Provides more weight to anchor trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Forgiving substrate with good drainage.

## INGREDIENTS

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Bark
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Adapted fertilizer starter charge





# **BM6 All-Purpose HP**

Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

With higher perlite content, this version of our renowned BM6 is designed to provide additional drainage and aeration. This traditional peat-and-perlite mix's versatility and performance exceeds industry expectations.



- Reduces plant stress due to excess water.
- Proven performance.
- Excellent drainage capacity for better control on your fertilizer program.
- Consistent and uniform for predictable results.

# **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge







# **BM7 Coarse Bark**

Incubated pH =5.5 - 6.5

The combination of Canadian sphagnum peat moss, coarse bark and perlite creates ideal aeration and porosity—all while providing additional weight for anchor. This stable structure gives the necessary long-term drainage for successful perennial production.

# **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Consistent and uniform bark mix for predictable
- Provides more weight to anchor trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Stable structure for long-term crops.
- Forgiving substrate with excellent drainage.
- Available both loose and compressed formats.

# **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Coarse bark
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Adapted fertilizer starter charge





# **BM4 Natural Fiber - Wood**

# Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

A blend of Canadian sphagnum peat moss and eco-friendly NF Wood, this matrix of fibers creates a unique connective network offering high water retention and ample air space for very rapid root development.



# **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Water reserve allows for additional time between irrigation.
- All-natural and biodegradable main components.
- Reduce handing with more yield per bag.
- Consistent and uniform for predictable results.

# **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade wood fiber
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



# **BM8 Water Saving**

# Incubated pH = 5.4 - 6.2

With the addition of our professional-grade composted peat moss, this mix is specifically designed to lengthen the drydown period. The extra water reserve is great for maintaining moisture level in hanging baskets and large containers.



# FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- · Additional weight provide weight in outdoor pro-
- Compost provides additional nutrients.
- Higher water retention coupled with good air
- Higher CEC for increased buffering capacity.
- Provides additional shelf life at retailers and box stores.

# **INGREDIENTS**

- Premium selected coarse grade peat moss
- Coarse grade perlite
- Composted peat moss
- Dolomitic and calcitic limestone
- Non-ionic wetting agent
- Standard fertilizer starter charge



# Components



# **Peat Moss**

Sphagnum peat fibers have the characteristics of a sponge. They can absorb up to 20 times their dry weight in water and nutrients, and release it over time, making it the preferred component of professional growing media. Berger's peat is always consistent thanks to a balanced ratio of different peat sources from multiple bogs as well as a meticulous handling process.



# **Perlite**

Expanded in-house and sieved to isolate coarse and fine particles, Berger's exceedingly consistent perlite is manufactured to meet the highest quality standards. It is chemically inert, therefore it helps increase air space and drainage in a growing media without affecting the pH.



# **Vermiculite**

Manufactured in our state of the art facilities, our vermiculite is blended in Berger mixes only after being sieved and undergoing a rigorous quality control process. Improves nutrient retention and availability while helping evenly distribute water throughout the growing media after irrigations. Stimulates the rapid development of a healthy root system which is critical for young plants.



# **Wood Fiber**

Optimized equilibrium between water retention and air porosity. Sustainable, biodegradable and renewable product that helps reduce the use of chemicals. Specifically designed through Berger R&D with distinctive characteristics adapted for our blends. Controlled all along the production line.



# **Composted Peat Moss**

Increases growing media's ability to retain water. Compost also provides nutrients and beneficial microorganisms. Our consistent high quality OMRI certified compost is made at Berger facilities. It is constantly monitored during all the phases of the composting process and protected from contaminants while it matures and during storage.



# Redwood

Mainly used in nursery productions, aged redwood is an excellent growing media component. It is also appreciated under greenhouse conditions thanks to its adaptable physical properties, giving the ability to adjust the air/water ratio. Berger produces three different grades of redwood to meet the needs of growers on the West Coast.



# Bark

Increases aeration and improves drainage to promote a vigorous rooting system. Heavyweight, bark has a slow decomposition rate and is great for pot stability which is critical for long term crops. Following rigorous quality control standards, Berger produces different grades of bark to cater to the various needs of growers for both indoor and outdoor productions.



# Coir

By utilizing different grades of coir, the physical characteristics of a growing media can be tweaked to increase or decrease air capacity. This biodegradable component can also improve water distribution. Berger utilizes coir that has been consistently processed and thoroughly treated to ensure uniformity and low EC levels (salt content).

# **Optimizing Yield and Potting Practices**

Berger's products are manufactured to benefit growers, but they need to be handled properly to maximize results. By optimizing their potting practices, growers can get the most out of their Berger products.

# **Storage & Growing Media Handling**

Bags or bales should be stored in a cool area out of direct sunlight as much as possible. If the material is stored for long periods (> 4 months), the wettability of the growing media should be verified before use. When handling, the goal is to prevent damage to the growing media as much as possible. Fluffing and potting equipment should be selected and adjusted with care.

# **Avoid Compaction**

Growers should avoid compacting their growing media at all costs. Compaction reduces air space and increases water retention. Each action affects the physical structure of the growing media in its containers.

# **Adjusting the Water Content**

Berger sells growing media, not water. We keep the water content of our mixes as low as possible to maximize the number of skids per truckload.

Berger has the smallest water content range in the industry: approximately ½ gallon per cubic foot of growing media. This makes it easier to adjust the water content prior to potting. Most Berger products have an initial water content of 43 to 46%, while the water content of our competitors' products can be as low as 35% and as high as 75%.

An additional 5% in water content represents roughly 2,000 lbs. on a full truckload, which is approximately the weight of one full skid.



# Berger's 360° DNA

# **1** Peat Harvesting

Berger's Canadian peat bogs are located in 13 different areas: throughout the province of Québec, in New Brunswick, and in Manitoba. These different harvesting sites ensure a great availability of the exceptional resource that is peat, and make our supplying commitments reliable. Thanks to a balanced ratio of our different peat grades sourced from all our sites, combined with our meticulous selection process and handling method, we can guarantee the consistency of first-quality sphagnum peat fibers, season after season.

# 2 Ingredient Selection

Berger responsibly selects and processes raw materials with meticulous handling methods in all of its eight North-American manufacturing facilities.

Moreover, we take pride in our first-quality ingredients for every of our growing mixes. Each component offers characteristics that are carefully evaluated and integrated into our specific-purpose blends to optimize growing results.







# Customers' Needs

At the Heart of Our Operations



# 4 Skyscraper System

he skyscraper has been Berger's most popular packaging

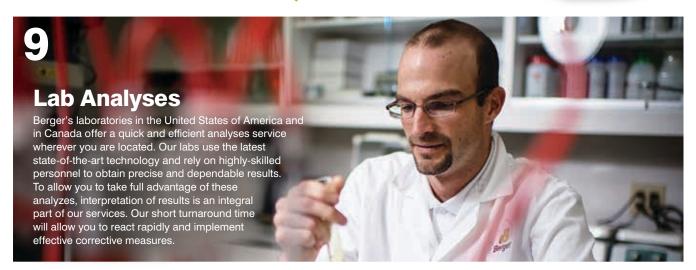
format among professional growers for almost 25 years. It was the first to be introduced in the industry in 1993, and now every 225 ft³ practical unit saves 2.5 hours of manual labor time, reduces plastic waste by nearly 80% and significantly improves transportation efficiency compared to a regular pallet of bales. That means better margins.



# 5 Logistics & Delivery

To keep offering a reliable and efficient product supply in a context where our company is experiencing tremendous growth, a continuous improvement of our logistic processes is achieved. Since then, Berger's production planning system is allowing better operation efficiency and proper inventory level for main products. Strong partnerships were also confirmed with strategically-located storage sites and reliable carriers to offer a greater flexibility regarding our customers' delivery.

Berger has strong values and respecting our commitments with our partners is crucial. This new production planning method attests to our integrity and dedication to serve you better.





# **At Your Service**

For more than 55 years, Berger has forged a strong reputation with growers worldwide. Our multidisciplinary team has one clear vision: to offer a personalized support throughout your production processes. Berger's team of specialists will be by your side every step of the way to provide details about our products and ensure that you get the right growing mixes when you need them. We are committed to your complete satisfaction and we make sure you have access to all the expertise that comes with every bag of growing media.

Experience the Berger difference and begin enjoying the benefits today!



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