FOOD for Lane County

Gardens Program Soil Mix for seed starting

Ingredients:
- 2 - 4.5 cubic feet coco peat (coir fiber) (soaked and sifted)
- 2 large wheel barrows garden compost or ‘Rexius Steer Plus Compost’ (sifted)
- 1 large bag vermiculite
- 5 bags ‘Down to Earth’ potting mix
- 1 ½ gallons limestone (fine)
- 1 ½ gallons fishmeal or alfalfa meal
- 2 gallons quartzite sand
- 1 gallon kelp meal
- 1 gallon soft rock phosphate or fish bone meal
- 1 quart azomite

Dump the soaked and sifted coco peat, sifted garden compost, and DTE potting soil onto a tarp. Add the limestone, then thoroughly mix with shovel. Add the rest of the amendments (fish or alfalfa meal, quartzite sand, kelp meal, soft rock phosphate and azomite powder), and again thoroughly mix with shovel. Finally add the vermiculite and once again mix thoroughly. You’re finished when the vermiculite is distributed evenly throughout the pile. Cover with a tarp and use as needed.

Rodale’s Container Garden Growing Medium

Equal parts: compost, pulverized pine or fir bark, and perlite or vermiculite
For each cubic foot of mix: add 4 ounces dolomitic limestone, 1 pound rock phosphate, 4 ounces greensand, 1 pound granite dust, and 2 ounces blood meal

Seasonal Soil Care Calendar (adapted from Rodale’s Basic Organic Gardening)

- **January**: work out your garden rotation plan
- **February**: order seeds
- **March**: find compost sources
- **April**: April showers, see how rains puddles and runs off garden, and figure ways to correct problems; when dry enough, take soil sample; plant spring cover crops like oats and clover
- **May**: build compost bin
- **June**: mulch when soil warms- plant summer cover crops like buckwheat
- **July**: turn compost
- **August**: as vegetable crops mature, clean debris and plant fall cover crop, cut summer cover crop, turn compost
- **September**: plant fall cover crop
- **October**: add lime or sulfur to adjust pH, mulch empty beds with grass clipping and leaves
- **November**: add leaves to compost pile
- **December**: chip your Christmas tree and mulch perennials