



Perlite is used to improve soil structure by providing drainage and aeration. Used with potting mixes or garden soils, including soilless mixes. It helps to prevent soil compaction, helps circulate air between roots, promotes strong root development, seed composts, growing medium, soil conditioner, hydroponics, flower support.

When it comes down to it, perlite is still the best choice for a soil amendment when you want moderate water retention, excellent aeration and drainage, and long-term benefits.



Perlite would be more suitable for succulents and other plants that prefer a drier growing medium.

There are several reasons why perlite is such a useful additive to gardens and hydroponic setups. They mainly stem from its unique physical and chemical properties:

Perlite is physically stable and retains its shape even when pressed into the soil

Perlite has a neutral pH level

Perlite contains no toxic chemicals and is made from naturally occurring compounds found in soil

Perlite is incredibly porous and contains pockets of space inside for air

Perlite can retain some amount of water while allowing the rest to drain away

These properties allow perlite to facilitate two critical processes in soil/hydroponics, which are essential for plant growth: **Aeration and Draining**

Pros:

- **Excellent for aeration of roots**
- **Very stable and inert structure**
- **Helps improve drainage**
- **Cheap and easily available**
- **Useful for hydroponics and gardening**

Perlite has several uses in regular gardens:

In Soil Mixes: You can make your own homemade soil mixes using a combination of perlite, loam, and peat moss in equal measures. In pots, it keeps everything loose, aerated and well-draining.

On The Surface: Perlite can be scattered on the surface of the soil as well, where it acts as a wicking agent. It will gradually work down into the soil, improving drainage.

For Root Cuttings: It encourages root growth much better than just plain water. You can place your starting seeds or cuttings in an air-filled Ziploc bag contained moistened perlite for several weeks.



Perlite is directly comparable to another mineral additive called Vermiculite. Both have overlapping functions and help with soil aeration and seed starting.

Conclusion:

Rookie gardeners tend to forget the importance of oxygen supply to the roots of growing plants and seedlings. Perlite is a key additive that can really improve the growth of seeds, saplings, rootings, and adult plants. It can be used as a standalone growth medium, or with other additives.