



Vermiculite can be used with potting mixes or garden soils. It helps to prevent soil compaction, promotes faster seed germination and encourages rapid root growth in cuttings. It can also be invaluable in preventing plants from being overwatered and succumbing to root rot, as it has impressive moisture retention properties that release water in line with the plant's needs. Vermiculite can be added to poor quality soil to improve it. If you have heavy, clay, poor-draining, or sandy soil in your garden, then most plants are going to struggle to survive, let alone thrive in this environment. Use around half the volume of the soil in Vermiculite and work it deep into the soil. The vermiculite will drastically improve the soil's aeration, allowing plants to grow much better. It will also retain the necessary moisture and nutrients to help feed the plant.



Vermiculite is better suited to moisture-loving plants such as ferns that enjoy consistent moisture.

Vermiculite has regular uses for the following:

Soil Improvement: Vermiculite can be added to poor quality soil to improve it. If you have heavy, clay, poor-draining, or sandy soil in your garden, then most plants are going to struggle to survive, let alone thrive in this environment.

Rooting Cuttings: Vermiculite is commonly used by those in the gardening trade to root cuttings. It can be used in various ways, either used alone, mixed with soil, or combined with bark for a soilless potting mixture. Whether used alone, or in a mix, propagating a cutting with vermiculite will promote anchorage for new roots, and speed up root growth.

Seed Germination: Vermiculite can be used alone or in a potting mix for improved seed germination. Utilizing vermiculite for this purpose will see seedlings develop more quickly. If used alone, add only a small amount of water so as not to overwhelm the seeds.

Container Gardening: Vermiculite is an excellent addition to pots of soil, whether that be in outdoor containers or for houseplants. Mixing some vermiculite into your potting soil will improve aeration and moisture retention, resulting in a healthier root system that is better able to spread out and absorb nutrients.

Lawn Seeding: After applying seed to your lawn, spread around a quarter inch of vermiculite over the top and water with a gentle sprayer. You should use approximately 3 cubic feet of vermiculite for every 100 square feet of lawn. This addition will increase the speed at which your seeds germinate, and increase the number of seeds that germinate, for a fuller-looking lawn.

Cut Flowers: If you like to create your own homegrown cut flower bouquets, vermiculite offers a great hack to use instead of a vase full of water. Simply fill your container with vermiculite and moisten with water, then add in your cut flowers. This eliminates the need to change stale water, will prevent potential spills and keeps the flowers looking fresh for longer.

Bulb and Root Storage: For plants that need to be overwintered indoors, vermiculite offers an easy storage solution that will keep the bulbs or root systems in their best condition. First, allow bulbs or roots to dry out for several hours after being removed from the ground. Then fill a container with vermiculite and tuck in your bulb or roots. The vermiculite will prevent rotting, which is a common problem for stored bulbs.

Transplanting Plants: Whether you have grown your own plants from seed, or you have brought them home from the nursery, you will need to transplant them to their permanent home in the ground. Vermiculite will help your plant to settle in better, ensuring its ideal care needs are met.

Mulch: Vermiculite can effectively be used as a mulch for some types of plants, including roses and tomato plants. Add just a few inches on top of the soil to improve moisture control and provide heat protection to root systems.

Pros:

- Impressive water retention
- Sterile
- Neutral pH
- Aerates soil
- Improves root growth
- Increases nutrient retention
- Will not rot
- Prevents mold and mildew
- Helps root anchorage
- Promotes rapid growth
- Improves soil quality
- Versatile
- Can be used alone or in mixes

Conclusion:

Vermiculite is a versatile, naturally occurring mineral that can be used alone or mixed with other growing mediums to improve plant health and plant growth. It helps with soil aeration and greatly improves soil quality, but where it really shines is with its ability to retain moisture, thereby ensuring roots have the moisture they need while preventing overwatering. Vermiculite can be expensive to buy but may prove itself to be priceless when it comes to the health of your plants.