

Potting/Garden Soil Recipe with Spent Mushroom Blocks

"For Healthy, Fertile Gardens & Containers"

Spent Mushroom Blocks: 25%



Compost: 25%



Topsoil: 25%



Chicken Manure (Aged or Unaged):
5-10%



Construction Sand: 15%
(NOT PLAY SAND)



Optional: Worm Castings: 2-3% (for extra nutrients) or Kelp Meal.

Instructions:

- Break Down the Spent Mushroom Blocks:
 - Crumble blocks into small pieces for easy mixing. If dry, soak briefly to soften.
- Mix Compost, Construction Sand, and Topsoil:
 - Combine the compost and topsoil to provide a nutrient-rich base with structure.
- Add Chicken Manure
 - Option 1: Aged Chicken Manure
 - If using aged manure, it is safe to mix and use immediately. This provides essential nitrogen without harming plants.
 - Option 2: Unaged (Fresh) Chicken Manure
 - If using fresh manure, allow the soil mix to cure for 2-4 weeks before planting. This resting period will give time for ammonia to dissipate and ensure a safe growing environment.
- Incorporate Spent Mushroom Blocks:
 - Add the mushroom blocks to boost organic matter and introduce beneficial fungi.
- Optional: Add Worm Castings or Kelp Meal for Extra Nutrients. Worm castings enhance microbial life and provide balanced nutrients.
 - Adding additional aged manure boosts fertility for heavy feeders like vegetables and flowers.
- Curing Time (Only if using fresh manure):
 - If unaged manure was used, allow the soil to rest for 2-4 weeks in a shaded spot. This ensures ammonia dissipates and soil microbes stabilize.

Using the Soil Mix

- Vegetables and Herbs: Ideal for nutrient-hungry crops like tomatoes and leafy greens.
- Flower Beds: Supports blooming flowers with healthy organic matter.
- Container Plants: Ensure containers have drainage holes, and consider adding extra perlite for houseplants.
- Care Tips for Plants
 - Watering: Monitor moisture to avoid waterlogging, as this soil mix retains moisture well.
 - Nutrient Renewal: Top up with compost or worm castings every few months for continued plant health.

Vegetables:

This mix is ideal for most vegetable crops due to its balance of nutrients, aeration, and drainage. You can use it for:

Leafy Greens: Lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, Swiss chard

Root Vegetables: Carrots, radishes, beets, turnips, potatoes

Fruiting Vegetables: Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, zucchini

Legumes: Green beans, peas

Note: Root vegetables especially benefit from the light texture of the spent mushroom compost, as it helps prevent soil compaction and encourages straight root growth.

Herbs:

Herbs generally require well-draining soil, making this mix a great choice:

Basil, thyme, oregano, sage, rosemary, mint

Parsley and cilantro, which need both moisture and good

drainage

Chives, dill, and tarragon will also thrive in this mix

Caution: Some herbs, like rosemary and lavender, prefer drier soil, so you might add extra perlite for those.

Plants to Avoid or Modify:

Acid-Loving Plants: Blueberries, rhododendrons, and azaleas prefer more acidic soil. If using this mix, you may need to adjust the pH with sulfur or peat moss.

Succulents & Cacti: These require extremely fast-draining soil. Increase the sand or perlite content to at least 40% if planting succulents.