

COMPARISON OF ORCHID BARK

Simple measurements were taken to compare two types of bark used for orchid growing.

1. Debco 10 litre Orchid Bark (Flower Power)
2. Besgrow 40 litre Orchiata Bark (Garden City Plastics)



Debco 10 litre Orchid Bark
- residual "fines" of 210g (21%)



Acidic pH 5-5.5



Besgrow 40 litre Orchiata Bark
- residual "fines" of 73g (2%)

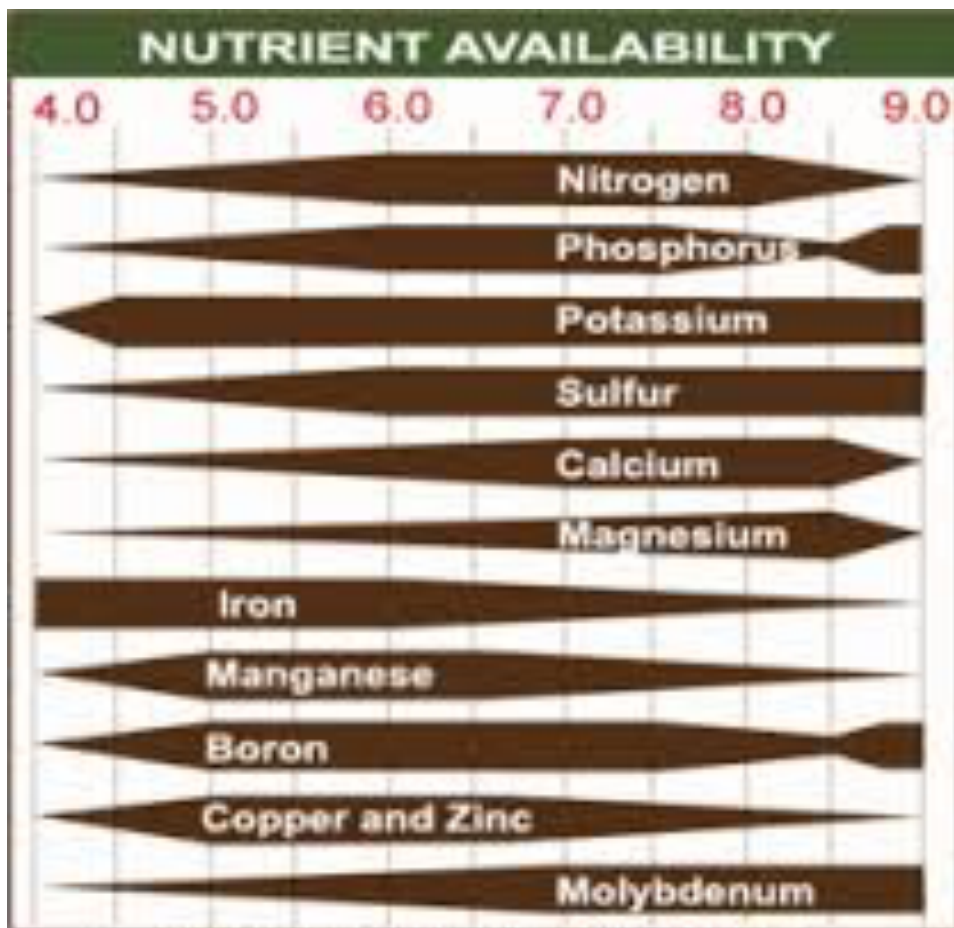


Slightly acidic pH 6.5-7

Solutions with a pH less than 7 are acidic and those with a pH greater than 7 are basic (or alkaline). The pH level in the orchid pot will affect a plant's ability to absorb nutrients. If the pH is too high or too low, the orchid roots cannot absorb the nutrients when fertiliser is added, so plant health will suffer. Most orchids require a pH of 5.5-6.5 which is slightly acidic. However as bark breaks down over time, it becomes more acidic.

RECOMMENDATION:

Besgrow 40 litre Orchiata Bark clearly offers a superior quality bark, with minimal residual "fines". It also provides an ideal growing medium for most orchids, with a slightly acidic pH.



Most plant nutrients are available in the pH range of 6.0-7.0.