

Case Study

Viking Nurseries

Peat-free trial

Timeline

Week 21

First Trial

Jiffy Peat-Free
Pot Mix 2021

Crop Focus

Choisya ternata
'Sundance' 2L pot

About

Viking Nurseries are a garden centre supplier delivering high quality plants to independent businesses and large garden centre groups. Established in 1998 the company is forward-thinking and growing with innovations leading to an increase in business and always looking to stay at the forefront of the industry.

The production at the nursery is split into two main categories: indoor/greenhouse and outdoor/field grown stock. The set up consists of a 30-acre site of largely outdoor growing beds as well as 1.8-hectares under glass. Their plant range consists of conifers, deciduous shrubs, ornamental plants, and roses. Their supplied pot sizes range from 1.4 litres to 10 litres.

Nutrition and Fertilisers Utilised for Trial

Currently just one application in Week 24 - fertiliser application - EC 1.8, pH 5.8.

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Image shows the peat free trial after 4 weeks compared to the traditional peat based growing medium, the results show the root development side by side with both mixes.

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Findings

With the Jiffy peat free pot mix 2021 - plants in the peat free mix are roughly two weeks ahead in rooting compared to our current mix. Foliage growth is greater and even across all plants.

The mix is free draining and suits the *Choisya* perfectly.

Next Steps

Working closely with Sean Whitworth at Fargro to expand the trials across all the Hardy Nursery Stock which is grown at the nursery.

The early results are looking very promising!

Week 29

The Peat free plants are being fed at each watering at an EC of 1.8ms, even during hot weather, both soil types are watered at the same time as to not create problems with the mixes drying out too much and rewetting is the same as the main crop as well.

The plants are responding well to the feeding programme and Rob the Nursery Manager says they are on track to meet the spec to be sold this autumn.

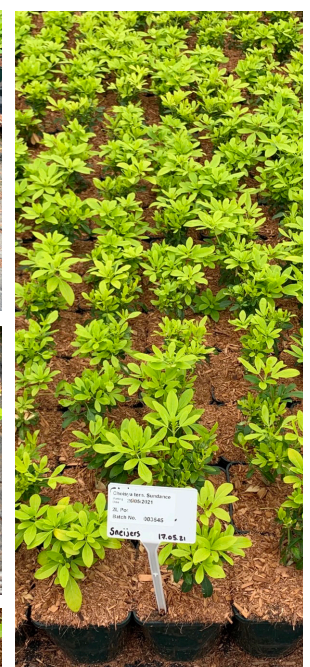


Image shows the final results of the first peat-free trial, showing a healthy uniform crop.