

Quality Parameters for Growing Media (RAL-GZ 250/2)



Quality Parameters	Range of values		
Permissible constituents and additives	Suitable organic, mineral and synthetic materials (materials of approved quality should be used if an appropriate quality assurance system exists. The decision belongs to the Quality Committee "Growing Media and Potting Soils")		
	The quality requirements are to be defined in the data sheet. The ongoing control must be documented.		
1 Physical Properties			
1.1 Structure	Fine	Medium	Coarse
Fraction of oversize particles ¹⁾	> 10 mm max. 5 Vol% ²⁾	> 20 mm max. 5 Vol% ³⁾	> 40 mm max. 10 Vol% ³⁾
1.2 Bulk density (dry)	To be analysed		
2 Chemical Properties	Desired values, including the permissible deviations, must be within the specified ranges of values (refer to Table 2-A in Section 2-2.2 in the Quality and Testing Regulations)		
2.1 pH value ¹⁾	General	5.0 - 6.5	
	Azaleas, Heathers, Ericaceous plants	3.4 - 4.6	
2.2 Salt content ¹⁾	[g/l]	General	< 3.0 g/l
		Azaleas, Heathers, Ericaceous plants	< 1.0 g/l
2.3 Soluble nutrients (mg/l)	Limit of declaration: 50 mg/l		
2.3.1 Nitrogen (NH ₄ -N + NO ₃ -N)	[mg/l]		
2.3.2 Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅)	[mg/l]	Declared desired value with permissible deviations	
2.3.3 Potassium (K ₂ O)	[mg/l]		
2.4 Sodium (Na) ^{1) 4)}	[mg/l]	General	< 100 mg/l
		Azaleas, Heathers	< 35 mg/l
2.5 Chloride (Cl) ^{1) 4)}	[mg/l]	General	< 200 mg/l
		Azaleas, Heathers	< 100 mg/l
3 Biological Properties			
3.1 Plant damaging substances	no plant damaging effect		
3.2 Weed content	max. 1 seedling or sprouting plant part per litre substrate		
3.3 Nitrogen dynamics (N immobilization / N mineralization ⁴⁾)	stabilized		
Deklaration			
1.1	The declaration must be carried out according to the Fertilizer Ordinance		
1.2	Slow-release fertilizer	additives Amount and type without specification of soluble nutrient content	
1.3	Date of production	Coded; uncoded in the case of slow-release fertilizer additive or > 2 kg/m ³ urea condensate	

¹⁾ With the agreement of the Quality Committee "Growing Media and Potting Soils", for special growing media variations are possible.

²⁾ Fibre fraction included

³⁾ Fibre fraction excluded

⁴⁾ The inspection can be determined according to Section 2-2.4.2.2 if needed by the Quality Committee.

Quality Assurance Growing Media (RAL-GZ 250/2)



Permissible deviations from the target values

Parameters	Maximum permissible deviations from the target values	
pH value	≥ 5.0	± 0.4
	< 5.0	± 0.3
Salinity	$\leq 1.5 \text{ g/l}$	$\pm 40 \%$
	$> 1.5 \text{ g/l}$	$+ 25 \%$
Soluble nutrients ($\text{NO}_3\text{-N} + \text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, P_2O_5 , K_2O)	$\leq 150 \text{ mg/l}$	$\pm 40 \%$
	$> 150 \text{ mg/l}$	$\pm 25 \%$
		Growing media with $\geq 25 \%$ by vol. organic matter besides peat:
		$\pm 40 \%$