

SUN GRO HORTICULTURE

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STORAGE AND HANDLING OF:

SUN GRO MIXES, PEAT MOSS, TECHNIGRO FERTILIZERS, and MINERALS

It has always been our policy as the makers of Sunshine Mix, Peat Moss, Technigro Fertilizer, and Stronglite minerals to produce and ship these products in an environment that is free of toxic contaminants. We do not keep herbicides or other harmful chemicals in or near our manufacturing facilities. We make every effort to select trucks that have not carried any potential toxins and require them to be clean prior to loading.

We would like to extend our safety measures to our distributors' and customers' facilities. To that end, we offer these storage and handling guidelines. We ask your cooperation to maintain the quality of the product you receive.

INSIDE STORAGE...

SUNSHINE MIX, PEAT MOSS, AND MINERALS

It is generally preferable to store Sunshine Mix and Peat Moss inside a building with a clean, solid floor. Exposure to excessive heat and sunlight causes decay of plastic and paper bags and accelerates degradation of nutrients and wetting agents in the mixes.

No Sun Gro product should be stored under or near chemicals such as herbicides, insecticides, disinfectants or even fertilizers. Whether liquid or dry, such chemicals can penetrate plastic or paper bags, and ruin the contents. These products are best stored in different parts of the building.

TECHNIGRO FERTILIZER

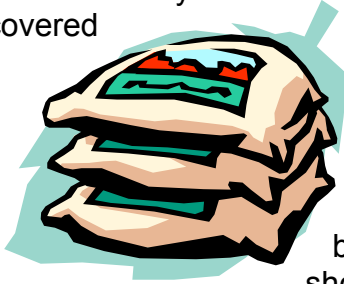
Technigro Fertilizer should never be stored outside, in a greenhouse or other hot, damp locations. Even though it is in heavy plastic bags, these conditions can lead to hardening especially if there are small holes in the bag. Pallets should not be stacked.

Refer to the Department of Transportation or your insurance company regulations regarding oxidizers.



OUTSIDE STORAGE...

If it is necessary to keep Sunshine Mix, peat, or minerals outside, they should be stacked on pallets or a raised platform to prevent bales from lying in water. A layer of smooth gravel covered



with heavy, porous plastic might be satisfactory. The stacked bales or bags should be covered with a heavy tarp. The goal is to keep out sunlight and precipitation, but the cover might also cause heat buildup. Prolonged heat can result in drying or hardening of peat-lite mixes and peat moss.

Bales with stapled closures should be stored with arrows pointing down. Loose filled 3 cu. ft. bags have breather holes, which can allow water in, but can also allow the product to dry out under adverse conditions. When peat-lite mixes get wet in the bag, nutrients are lost, the lime is activated and pH tends to rise quickly. This can lead to performance problems when the product is used.

Products stored outside should not be placed where they are subject to drift, splash or spray from chemicals used on farm fields, railroads, power lines, ditches, manufacturing facilities, etc. Bales kept outside are more likely to pick up drifting weed seeds that get caught in folds or stick to the plastic. We can usually identify whether weeds are native to Canada or to the area where product was stored.

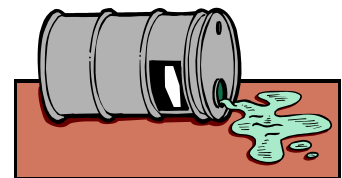
DAMAGED BAGS

Damaged bags should be taped securely or disposed of immediately. If the product is torn when you receive it, note the damage on your shipping papers and call our Customer Service. If the damage is our fault, the product will be credited or replaced.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

When putting peat-lite mixes, peat moss, fertilizer, or mineral bags on a truck with chemicals, care must be taken to keep them apart. We recommend stacking peat and potting soil neatly, securing with load locks and separating from other products with plywood or cardboard. Chemicals that might break or spill should be packed in a manner to prevent such accidents. If

chemicals including fertilizer should spill on bags of peat or media, those bags



should be destroyed or disposed of immediately. They must not be sold or used. The vehicle or area of the spill should be thoroughly cleaned before peat, media or fertilizer is again placed there.

SHELF LIFE

Normal stock rotation practices i.e., first in/first out should be observed with Sunshine Mix, Peat Moss and Technigro. Sunshine Mixes leave our plant soon after manufacture. We recommend that they not be stored more than six (6) months. If the product is more than one (1) year old (according to the production code stamped on the

bag), you should arrange with your Sun Gro Sales Manager to send samples to Sun Gro Analytical Laboratories for testing. We will tell you what precautions, if any, must be taken to achieve optimum results.



Technigro Fertilizers also should not be kept more than a year although

under ideal conditions, the product will remain good indefinitely. Technigro also has a production code of each bag to identify date of manufacture.

Peat Moss should not be stored more than one (1) year. Older bales should be examined or tested for usability before sale or use.

PRODUCTION CODES

Sunshine Mix and Peat Moss are stamped with production codes. For example,

E0120 means:

E Produced at the Elma facility
0 2000
120 120th day of the year

In addition to producing a quality product, we perform extensive tests to assure the quality. Records and samples are kept from each lot produced. Every bag or bale filled should have a code number stamped on it. It is our policy to record these numbers on bills of lading and/or invoices in order to track the product.

This information can be very useful if a question arises as to the quality or freshness of a product.

We strongly urge distributors and users of our products to record these numbers on their own invoices or production records. This is for your protection as well as ours.

We hope these guidelines will be useful to you in preventing damage to our product and to your profits. If you suspect damaged product or have questions about performance or use of our products, please call....

Sun Gro Customer Service Representative at 800-964-5044

