Preparing Growing Media

Did you know different plants require different growing media to thrive? Choosing the optimal growing media requires special consideration, because it is much more than just an anchor for the plant: it can be crucial to a successful crop. A balance between air content and available water is one of the most important requirements of a good growing media.

1. First determine why the following items might be beneficial if added to soilless greenhouse media
   a. Perlite

   b. Vermiculite

   c. Peat Moss

   d. Bark Medium

   e. Styrofoam

   f. Slow Release Fertilizer

2. Now use the knowledge you have gained to create a new greenhouse media. You get to be a soil master and create your own unique master soil blend!

   Create 3 unique soil blends that you think will provide optimum plant growth. Using the material provided determine what items you think would make the best growing media for your seeds.

Materials:

3 – 6in plastic greenhouse pots
Perlite
Vermiculite
Peat Moss
Bark Medium
Styrofoam
Slow Release Fertilizer
Gram Scale
Seeds – 9 total
Water

This is a free resource provided by Georgia Agricultural Education
Original creator: Melissa Riley, Central Region Horticulture Teacher

Student Task:

Complete the following chart using all or some of the material provided. Remember this is your unique blend, you can use two items in pot 1 and 4 items in pot 2, the choice for all 3 pots is up to YOU…experiment and HAVE FUN!

Pot 1		Pot 2		Pot 3	
Name of item added	**Amount added in grams**	**Name of item added**	**Amount added in grams**	**Name of item added**	**Amount added in grams**

Once your have your 3 unique blends created wet the soil until the entire mixed feels damp to the touch and/or was water leaking from the bottom of the container

Next in each of your pots create three holes using your finger or a pencil – these three holes should be equally spread out inside each pot and also only make the holes twice as large as your seeds

Place a single seed into each of the holes – 3 seeds per pots – 9 seeds total

Cover the seeds with soil and gently pat the soil to firm it

Record your observations daily for the next 14 days

	Pot 1	Pot 2	Pot 3
	Observations	**Observations**	**Observations**
Day 1			
Day2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			
Day 6			
Day 7			
Day 8			
Day 9			
Day 10			
Day 11			
Day 12			
Day 13			
Day 14			