

# HYPERTUFA

**TUFA- porous volcanic rock- very expensive**

**Hyper-tufa- means better than Tufa**

## **THE MIX**

#1 Part PEAT

#1 Part Perlite

½ Part Sand (concrete type) not play sand

1 ¼ Part Cement (Portland type)

¾ to 1 Part Water

## **STEPS**

1. Sift Peat( remove sticks and Lumps) then measure
2. Measure Perlite and Sand
3. Wearing a Dust Mask mix the above mixture thoroughly
4. Measure Cement and mix with above mixture. Add half the Water and mix. Add more water sparingly until mixture holds together in a ball without being slimy. Too dry won't hold together.
5. Using a plastic bag, line the container you are using as a mold.
6. With gloved hands form wall on insides of container. Then form bottom of container. Press very hard. It must be firm and no air bubbles in mixture.
7. 3 C's- consistency, compaction, cure.
8. 4 S's – scratch, scrape, slough, shape
9. When pot is formed, make drainage hole in bottom with sharp object.
10. Cover entire pot with plastic bag.
11. After 24 hours, unwrap pot, remove from mold, and distress edges and corners.
12. Remist and recover with plastic store for 1-2 weeks in area above 60 \*
13. Prepare pot for planting, wash 10-15 times to leach out lime. Or soak 2-3 times in strong vinegar water.

## **Pot Facts**

**1 day = 40% strength**

**1- Week = 70% strength**

**1-month = 95% strength**

**1-year= 100% strength**

- 1. Using heavy plastic bag gives texture to pot**
- 2. The dryer the moisture the stronger the pot but too dry falls apart**
- 3. If you keep a little of your mix back you can easily fix a too wet mix**
- 4. The longer you cure, the stronger the pot.**
- 5. The mixture used in this project will achieve winter resistance strength in 2 weeks. After 7 days, you may begin to leach out the pots. Keep them wet and they will gain strength.**
- 6. You can find Portland cement at Lowes and Home Depot. It comes in 94 lb. bags**
- 7. Types of cement – Type #1- tan or brown , Type #2 Grey, Type #3 Grey (hard to find)**
- 8. Make holes large enough. Use a screen to cover if made too large.**
- 9. Normal size pots 6-18” need 1-1/2” thick walls and bottoms. The larger the pot the thicker the walls and bottom.**
- 10.DO NOT WET any of the materials before the Cement is added. The cement particles need to enter the pores of the peat and the perlite during dry mixing.**
- 11.DO NOT get the mixture on the skin. Wear gloves, eye protection, and a mask. If contact is made, wash, wash, wash. !!!!!**
- 12.Total costs: approximately \$30. ( will make 10-15 normal size pots)**
- 13.Peat - \$10 approximately, Sand \$5, Cement \$5-10, perlite can be found at a good nursery. Its cost is \$10 for a small bag.**