



# John Innes Manufacturers Association

## Technical Data Sheet No. 5

### STORAGE OF JOHN INNES COMPOSTS

**ALL COMPOSTS WHETHER LOAM-BASED OR PEAT-BASED CAN BE SUBJECT TO MAJOR DETRIMENTAL CHANGES IF STORED INCORRECTLY.**

Substantial biological and chemical changes can occur in composts after they are manufactured. The most important from the users' (and the plants') point of view are the changes in pH (acidity) and salinity.

Under normal conditions there is an initial increase in pH, followed by a gradual decrease as the organic nitrogen is mineralised. These are perfectly normal reactions and occur in all composts, including those made from peat.

However it is desirable that these changes occur as slowly as possible, and to achieve this the following points should be observed during storage:-

1. The compost must be kept **DRY and COOL**.
2. It is best stored **INSIDE** in cool buildings. Keep away from radiators, heating ducts, light bulbs, etc.
3. If it is stored outside, **AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT and RAIN**. Try to site it against a north-facing wall, under a fixed canopy or porch roof.
4. **KEEP DRY** by covering with white or light-coloured plastic sheeting; black is not suitable as it causes the compost temperature to rise. If the compost is not covered it will absorb water through the breathing holes.
5. If the compost is not kept on pallets, ensure that the bottom layer of bags is raised above ground level.
6. If the compost is re-stacked, ensure that air can circulate within and between the stacks.
7. Always **ROTATE YOUR STOCK** - never put new deliveries on top of old stock.

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**If the above rules are observed the composts will produce the growing results for which they were formulated, and this, in turn, should ensure customer satisfaction.**

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***NOTE: When buying John Innes Compost, look for the JIMA Seal of Approval on the bag - a guarantee of satisfaction!***

Ref: TDS05-Storage+

#### **John Innes Manufacturers Association**

Horticulture House, 19 High Street, Theale, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 5AH

Tel: 0118 930 3132 Fax: 0118 932 3453

E-mail: [john.innes@the-hta.org.uk](mailto:john.innes@the-hta.org.uk) Website: [www.johninnes.info](http://www.johninnes.info)

**J.I.M.A. IS AN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT JOHN INNES COMPOST PRODUCERS**

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