

# Flower Power

## Choosing The Right Potting Mix

(NAPSA)—What's the dirt on potting soil? The market actually has a number of innovations to help people grow more healthy, beautiful plants.

There are plenty of potting mixes to choose from, but all that variety can result in a great deal of confusion at the store. First off, you need to start with a high-quality medium that holds adequate moisture but is well aerated and drains well. Some potting mixes even include fertilizer that provides nutrients necessary for optimum plant growth.

In addition, protection from insects is critical for young plants or those that have just been transplanted, explains Lance Walheim, a horticulturist who wrote the books *Roses for Dummies* and *Lawn Care for Dummies*. "Insects such as aphids, thrips and whiteflies not only weaken and stunt plant growth, but they also deform leaves," he says. "This kind of stress early on can even kill the plant."

Don't forget to water. Watering young plants sounds simple, but many gardeners make serious mistakes. Too much water can cause root rot if the potting mix and container don't drain well. Not enough water can cause your plants to



**When your plants and flowers are ready to go to pot, be sure to use a quality potting mix.**

wilt. Some new potting mixes contain water release polymers that store excess water and then release it to the plant as the soil dries. This helps to prevent over-watering and under-watering.

Bayer Advanced Garden 3-in-1 Multi-Purpose Potting Mix and Bayer Advanced Garden 3-in-1 Rose & Flower Potting Mix, are the first potting mix products that combine a high-quality growing medium with fertilizer, insect protection and a water polymer. They are also the only potting mixes on the market that contain insect protection.

To learn more about solving gardening and lawn care problems, visit [www.bayeradvanced.com](http://www.bayeradvanced.com) or call 1-877-BAYERAG.