

Tondemonai Pot and Shozo-70 Nursery Soil

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The Tondemonai pot's unique characteristics allow roots to actively grow throughout the entire container medium because of the removal of excess water by slits in the bottom of the pot and the supply of oxygen to the medium through the slits. Such root system development would not have occurred with the more traditional pot used before. In traditional pots, water remains in the bottom and the roots circle the pot. In addition, the upper part of the soil will dry and the oxygen will not be able to get into the soil. Root growth, therefore, will be restricted to the bottom and the medium-pot interface.

With the Tondemonai pot the container medium has the water evenly distributed throughout the pot. The medium in this pot is well drained and has a stable water content. The 24- and 30-cm-diameter pots have an octagon face and the 15-cm-diameter pot has a hexagon face. The stair-shape of the pot sides induces the roots to grow to the corner of the pot and the air. This structure is effective for avoiding the development of circling roots.

There are many advantages for the use of this pot.

- Because this pot increases the amount of root growth, plants can avoid wilting longer and recover faster from a water deficiency if wilting occurs.
- Growers can grow plants for a long time period because of the greater oxygen supply to the roots generated in the pot.
- Growers can directly plant a small seeding in a large pot, which will save time and cost for transplanting.

A nursery soil also has been developed. The name of this soil is "Shozo-70" nursery soil. The concept behind the production of this soil is that the root is an organ whose function is very important and similar to the internal organs for animals. Shozo-70 nursery soil is especially produced for improving plant growth. Media water retention, physical properties, and desiccation problems were considered during development of this potting substrate. This substrate can be used for all plants, including vegetables, annual bedding plants, flowering trees and shrubs, and foliage plants by mixing with other components. I recommend the use of this soil with 30% to 40% mountain sand for plant propagation.