

Kiwi Orchid Bark

Premium sustainable orchid growing media made in New Zealand and used world-wide to grow superior orchids.



Kiwi Orchid Bark, New Zealand's premium orchid growing media, is special because it is made from raw (un-aged) bark from Pinus Radiata trees. The bark is generated from sustainable tree plantations in the most beautiful and pure place on earth, Aotearoa-New Zealand.



Why do orchids thrive in Kiwi Orchid Bark?

In nature orchids can thrive in many settings but don't tolerate changes to the environment in which their root systems grow. Kiwi Orchid bark is fresh with no added fertilisers. It is simply sourced directly from the trees after felling, processed (cleaned and screened), bagged, and immediately sent to growers. This means the bark remains hard, and as fresh as possible for orchids to thrive in. Just as nature intended.



The natural pH of the bark remains stable for many years, giving orchid roots the stable conditions needed for them to thrive. The bark is naturally hard meaning it is long lasting and when time comes to repot, your orchids are easily transferred into new bark with minimal pH fluctuation, which means minimal/no root damage.

As the bark degrades slowly, repotting, which risks the integrity of orchids roots and the health of the plant, isn't necessary for at least three years. The size and uniform shape of the bark also allows for natural air cavities within the pot, which means better root respiration.

Straight out of the bag Kiwi Orchid Bark has a pH of around 5.4, which is within the range needed for optimum nutrient availability in soilless media (5.4-6). Importantly, the pH remains consistent for years, even in hot, humid climates, meaning the plant roots have the stable environment needed for orchids to thrive, with minimal repotting allowing optimum plant growth and beautiful flowers.

Why is Kiwi Orchid bark better than other barks and growing substrates?



Aged Pinus Radiata bark has been composted and has dolomite added to increase its initial pH, this is to help with water holding capacity and nutrient availability. Critically, the aging process also degrades the bark, shortening its life span. Its pH decreases rapidly after about 12 months, which firstly means the orchids roots are under stress from the changing acidity conditions, and then again under stress when they need be re-potted into new bark (with a different pH). This change in acidity means constant monitoring is required and the need for quicker repotting isn't conducive to optimum plant growth.

Kiwi Orchid Bark is superior to traditional 'fir bark' orchid growing media as, similarly to aged Pinus Radiata bark, these tend to degrade and change pH quickly, making for an unstable root environment and more regular repotting.

Sphagnum moss grows in wetlands, which are endangered globally and critical to the health of our ecosystems. They are also carbon sinks. Harvesting sphagnum moss is bad for the environment and sphagnum moss is expensive. Conversely, Kiwi Orchid Bark is made from the waste product of renewable, sustainable Pinus Radiata plantations in New Zealand, and has little environmental impact and a lower price tag.



Kiwi Orchid Bark Grades



No#1 Kiwi Orchid Bark

This new bark grade has been produced since 2021 and replaces the previous 3FB bark. It is approx. 3-6 mm in size.

No#1 bark is perfect for smaller seedlings and young orchids when in flasks, it can be mixed with No#2 bark as the plant grows and gets repotted.



No#2 Kiwi Orchid Bark

This bark is approximately 3 - 9 mm in size. It is used for *Disa* and *Masdevallias* species and other orchid genera. Orchid growers also use it for deflasking and seedlings.

Some growers use it as a sphagnum moss replacement for certain species.



No#3 Kiwi Orchid Bark

The most popular of our Kiwi Orchid Bark range and well established in the national and international market. This bark is approximately 8 to 20 mm in size.

This product is widely used for small to medium sized *Cymbidiums* and also used on *Cattleyas*, *Vandas*, *Phal-aenopsis*, etc.



No#4 Kiwi Orchid Bark

This bark is approximately 20 to 25 mm in size.

It is very popular and is predominantly used for Large *Cymbidium* plants.

This is a great ornamental bark for around indoor and outdoor pot plants.



No#5 Kiwi Orchid Bark

This Bark is approximately 25 to 50 mm in size. It is the largest size we produce. It is used for genera where the larger plant roots should be allowed to dry out between each application of water like *Cattleya*.

Also can be placed on the bottom of a pot for increased drainage where grade 2, 3 or 4 is used above.

OTHER USES: *Kiwi Orchid Bark*, being fresh with no added fertilisers, is also perfect for *Décor bark* and on ornamental pot plants to improve aesthetics. Our bark is also used in zoos and reptile enclosures for bedding due to its natural state, the non-addition of fertilisers, and being environmentally friendly.

How to use Kiwi Orchid Bark



Kiwi Orchid Bark can be used straight out of the bag as a standalone growing media, and it can also be mixed with other growing substrates depending on a growers preference.

When using Kiwi Orchid Bark for potting orchids, a grower must firstly choose the grade suitable for the type of genera and look at the size of the plant to be potted. Many growers use Grade 3 for younger and mature Cymbidiums, Dendrobium etc, and the smaller Grade 2 for seedlings. When ready to pot your orchid, pre-soak the bark with water over night to help with initial water absorption. Clean off any old growing media from the roots before repotting.

Most growers use Kiwi Orchid Bark 'undiluted' for potting and repotting, but some growers may prefer to add materials such as perlite, sphagnum moss, coco coir etc, to the primarily bark base prior to potting their orchids.

Select correct pot size and lay a base of orchid bark at the bottom of the pot. Place orchid in the pot and surround the roots with Kiwi Orchid Bark, ensure bark is not caught up on any roots causing

large cavities. Gently tap the bottom of the pot a few times to settle the bark .

A good indication that the orchid is potted up well, is to lift the orchid at the base to check if pot falls away, if so, repack more firmly. Once potted, water and fertilise at your own discretion. Due to the hardness of the un-aged Kiwi Orchid Bark, repotting is not required for approximately 3 years or if the orchid outgrows its pot.

"Kiwi Orchid Bark's hardness means that repotting isn't necessary for about three years. Which means stronger roots and healthier plants."

Fred Clark, Sunset Valley Orchids, USA



Bark Products Taranaki Ltd

Manufactures of Kiwi Orchid Bark



Kiwi Orchid Bark is manufactured by Bark Products Taranaki, in the small coastal town of Waitara, in the province of Taranaki in New Zealand's North island.

Twenty-one years of optimising and refining the plant in which Kiwi Orchid Bark is produced means Bark Products Taranaki makes the cleanest, and most uniform bark grades available.

The family-owned and operated business prides itself on its product quality and consistency, and on

providing the best possible service to their local and world-wide customer base.

If you want to discuss your needs with us, to order Kiwi Orchid Bark, or to organise having samples sent to you, please contact our General Manager Elliot Wallace, whose details are below. We export around the world and can arrange all your shipping and biosecurity requirements.



Contact details

Elliot Wallace, General Manager Bark Products Taranaki

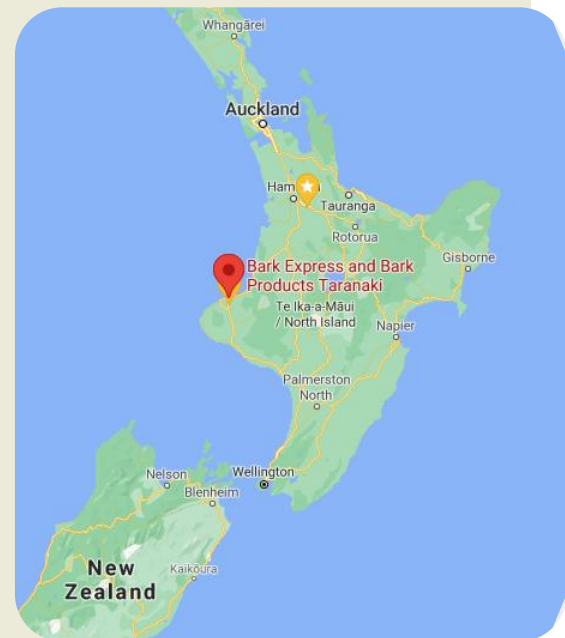
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For more information:

- ❖ Visit our website www.barkproductstaranaki.co.nz
- ❖ Kiwi Orchid Bark Review by world famous YouTube star Miss Orchid Girl (we did not fund this) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEY-dL4GJc> and how to use <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRo5V-HQRRM>
- ❖ Kiwi Orchid Bark review and details on how to use by our New Zealand-based distributor Bio Leaf Plant Nutrients <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFI2KQToKVo>