



Lyndale Custom Compost - December 2022

Christmas Cake and other recipes

I tend to draw comparisons between making potting mixes and cakes, when describing to the uninitiated what we do to make up a customers potting mix blend.

Certainly, our four cubic meter ribbon blender mixer looks and acts a lot like a giant cake mixer, in that it is all about blending the ingredients by lifting and folding them as they are added into the mix.

The principal is shared with the better cake mixers, with the same care prioritized for retaining the integrity of each ingredient input without destroying its texture and individual benefits that it brings to the blend.



Big cake mixer

I do enjoy a good fruit cake, especially the Christmas variety.

There is a commonality of recipes that make what I consider to be a "good" cake, heaps of fruit, rind, peel and nuts, alcohol of several descriptions, spices and lots of eggs. Given these ingredients, it is hard not to end up with a cake outcome that is both rich and moist and extremely moreish. Try this:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/make-mature-christmas-cake>



There are some potting mix suppliers, both in NZ and Australia who still maintain they can make a good potting mix on a concrete pad with a skilled loader driver doing the blending.

Think about the above cake simile and imagine how you would go mixing a cake on a bench with a spoon, you possibly could do it, but really? Consistency is key!!!!



A Conversation about Plant Protection

Sometime last month parliament passed a major rejig of the law covering plant variety rights, extending new protections for the guardian (Kaitiaki) relationships Māori have with taonga plant species.

The new act defines taonga plants as those Māori have a special relationship with, either because they are indigenous to New Zealand or because they are believed to have been brought to the country before European settlement from other parts of the Pacific region. I.e., Kumara, Ipomoea batatas a relatively benign member of the Convolvulaceae plant family native to the tropical Americas. (Imagine the furor if Chinese gooseberries/Kiwifruit/Actinidia chinensis, had been on board the Wakas that ended up in NZ).



In summary, the reformed act contains several new protections. When plant breeders apply for plant variety rights for taonga plants, they now need to meet certain requirements.

For example, if the breeder is aware that a Kaitiaki relationship with the plant has been asserted, the breeder must engage directly with the Kaitiaki.

If the Kaitiaki finds that granting plant variety rights for the breeder's variety would have adverse effects on the Kaitiaki relationship, the breeder and Kaitiaki must agree on how to mitigate these effects.

The law creates a new Māori plant varieties committee, which holds the power to make binding decisions to nullify or cancel or impose conditions on any grants of plant variety for taonga species that may have adverse effects on Kaitiaki relationships.

Like all laws, we will not really know what this will all mean until it is tested before the courts.

I believe the act is specific to the New Zealand context, meaning that applications made in foreign sovereignties are not influenced by this Act regardless of where the plant material originated from.

I have not seen any reference to this new act being retrospective, so we await a new application to test the system.

I suspect that we may be waiting for some time.

Custom Mix Christmas

We have been proactive in asking what you, our customer base are planning on doing work-wise over the festive/new year period.

Crystal has been talking either in person or via e-mail to the people we think are most likely to want supply over this period.



Clearly, the re-vegetation nurseries are entering their key potting-up window, if they are to have the product on the ground ready to go in June, the rest is a little harder to guess, so thank you for your feedback to Crystal.

The outcome is that we will have an experienced core team available on all the workdays to supply you with whatever you need over that time.

That's us done for December except to say

Have a wonderful Christmas and wishing you all the very best of everything in 2023


Best Wishes from the Custom Mix Team.



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