

Perlite in Organic Soils

OMRI listing for Perlite

<https://www.omri.org/ubersearch/results/perlite>

RULING BODY: NOP

STATUS: Allowed

CLASSIFICATION: Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments

ORIGIN: Nonsynthetic

DESCRIPTION: See MINED MINERALS – UNPROCESSED

RULE REFERENCE: 205.203(d)(2) A mined substance of low solubility.

Expanded perlite is a mineral constituent of horticulture soils and is derived from naturally hydrated obsidian – a volcanic glass.

Raw perlite ore is mined in volcanic areas, crushed, and screened into different sizes before being sent to a perlite expansion furnace. The crushed ore is then brought to a temperature (around 1500 degrees F) where the glass softens, and the trapped water molecules turn into steam-making the small rock particle “expand” in the same manner that popcorn expands in an air popper. The result is a particle that reveals itself under a microscope as a cluster of tiny, volcanic glass bubbles-both whole and broken.

The mineral is otherwise unchanged in composition and is added to organic components like peat moss to aerate and provide drainage for resultant soils.

No additives or coatings are employed in this process.

