



ORCHIATA™ 11 STEP PRODUCTION PROCESS

The process used to create the Pacific Wide Group bark based products is made up of 11 main steps. These steps are unique to our company as the combined history, experience and technical information collected by the Pacific Wide Group over the last 20 years has allowed us to refine the process. We now create a high quality media suited to growing only the best quality plants.

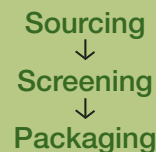
For many years *Pinus radiata* trees have been planted in vast expanses over New Zealand’s rolling hills to provide rich wood to the rest of the world. The trees stand like soldiers in an army watching over the land ready to serve the timber industry. The hearts of these soldiers, the trees, when harvested are used for many timber applications such as buildings and furniture. However the trees armour which has protected it for almost 30 years remains discarded and unused. The Pacific Wide Group realises the armour of *Pinus radiata* (the bark) is invaluable as a growing media. We therefore take the bark with its protective properties and pass it through 11 key steps to create one of the finest growing medias in the world.

Most companies that produce growing media from bark use a 5 step process:



These companies generally source their raw bark from many localities and there is a mixture of species not just *Pinus radiata* present. Most companies compost the bark instead of aging which can be detrimental to the quality of an orchid growing media.

Companies that source their raw bark from landfill sites have only 3 steps of processing:



Composting orchid reduces it’s pot life and the composting may be inconsistent or uncontrolled. Others do not age the bark at all preventing water absorption. With fewer processing steps there is less opportunity for these companies to perform quality checks.

After years of experience we changed our processing methods to include 11 major steps. These steps have revolutionised the production of orchid growing media and so far no other company has been able to match or produce a similar high quality media.

Our process of turning 100% pure *Pinus radiata* bark into a form of growing media called **Orchiata™** is only one of a kind. The process can be described as a “milk to cheese” process, where we take the rawest of materials (raw *Pinus radiata* bark) and turn it into something completely different.



The 11 step process which we use to create our high quality **Orchiata™** and potting fines is as follows:

1 HARVEST

Removal of bark from large *Pinus radiata* logs.



2 RAW BARK CONDITIONING

A process required to remove toxins and cambium from raw bark.



3 SHREDDING

Conditioned raw bark is fed through a specialised shredder to reduce the size of the bark for aging.



4 AGING

Shredded material is placed into geometrically shaped piles to age. Moisture and temperature is monitored.



5 SCREENING

Windrow material is screened into specific grades using large but precise screens.



6 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Unwanted fibre, stones and oversized particles are removed.





QUALITY GRADING

All products are tested to make sure contamination is removed.



CALCIUM/ MAGNESIUM BUFFERING

A natural material is added to buffer the Calcium and the Magnesium levels in the media for extra plant growth.



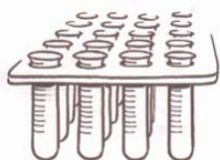
COMPOSTING OF <3mm FINES FOR GENERAL POTTING MEDIA

Very fine bark is composted for use as growing media for non-orchid nurseries.



PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL TESTING

All batches of Orchiata™ and potting fines are chemically and physically tested to ensure the media is of high quality.



PACKAGING & SHIPPING

The product is packed and shipped to the final consumer as requested.



Through using a refined process which we are passionate about, we can continue to produce Orchiata™ and other potting media to a high standard. We consider our products as specialised and unique, which will benefit any grower wanting to grow high quality plants.