



Creating the ideal soil mix for your bonsai is essential for the health and growth of your miniature trees. This guide will show you how to make an excellent bonsai mix using pumice, scoria, and high-quality potting mix, tailored specifically for New Zealand conditions.

## Key Components

### 1. Pumice:

- Description: A light, porous volcanic rock.
- Benefits: Provides excellent aeration and helps with water retention while ensuring proper drainage to prevent root rot.

### 2. Scoria:

- Description: A porous volcanic rock, denser than pumice.
- Benefits: Enhances drainage, improves soil structure, and prevents compaction, promoting healthy root systems.

### 3. Potting Mix:

- Description: A well-draining and nutrient-rich commercial soil mix.
- Benefits: Retains moisture and nutrients effectively, provides a stable base for roots, and supports overall plant health.

## Ideal Mix Ratio

An effective bonsai mix balances these components to meet your bonsai's needs. A commonly recommended ratio is:

- 1 part pumice
- 1 part scoria
- 1 part high-quality potting mix

This combination ensures a mix that provides proper drainage, aeration, and moisture retention.

## Steps to Create Your Bonsai Mix

### 1. Gather Materials:

- Obtain pumice, scoria, and high-quality potting mix from garden centres or online suppliers in New Zealand.

### 2. Prepare Ingredients:

- Sift Pumice: Remove fine dust to enhance aeration.
- Rinse Scoria: Clean to eliminate dust and debris.
- Prepare Potting Mix: Ensure it is of high quality, well-draining, and free of large debris.

### 3. Mix Components:

- Measure equal parts of pumice, scoria, and potting mix.
- Thoroughly combine them in a large container, ensuring an even mix.

### 4. Test the Mix:

- Pour water through the mix to check drainage. It should drain well but also retain some moisture.

### 5. Adjust if Needed:

- If the mix holds too much water, add more pumice or scoria.
- If it drains too quickly, add more potting mix.

## Using Your Bonsai Mix

### 1. Repotting:

- Carefully remove your bonsai from its current pot without damaging the roots.
- Trim excess roots to encourage new growth.
- Place a layer of the bonsai mix at the bottom of the new pot.
- Position your bonsai and fill around the roots with more mix, pressing gently to remove air pockets.

### 2. Watering:

- Water thoroughly after repotting to moisten the mix.
- Adjust your watering schedule according to your bonsai species and New Zealand's climate.

### 3. Maintenance:

- Monitor the mix over time. Potting mix can break down, so you may need to repot your bonsai every few years to refresh the mix.

## Conclusion

Creating a bonsai mix with pumice, scoria, and potting mix is crucial for the health and vitality of your bonsai. By following this guide, you'll provide a well-balanced growing medium that supports strong root development, proper drainage, and adequate nutrient retention.

Please remember, this is a starter and should be updated according to your location, rain fall, tree species and your time availability.