



m-techplastics
flexible plastics solutions

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MERITS OF PLANTING BAGS

With the end of the 20th century, we saw a dramatic increase in South Africa in the number of pots used for growing ornamental plants. What this meant is that flexible containers were being replaced in favour of rigid ones. While the latter certainly are more durable, the price difference is also substantial. Moreover, there are distinct differences in the growth of plants depending on which containers are used. It is this undeniable difference that now makes using rigid containers an impractical choice.

Advantages of Soft Containers:

1. Plastic Planting Bags are a low cost replacement for rigid containers.
2. Plastic Planting Bags are available in standard and custom sizes.
3. More plants can be stored per square foot using Plastic Planting Bags.
4. Plastic Planting Bags stimulate root growth.
5. Water is conserved because moisture in the soil is retained longer when using Plastic Planting Bags.

Nurserymen are discovering that there are many reasons to replace rigid plastic and metal containers with Plastic Planting Bags. Economies are affected not only by lower initial cost but bags also require approximately 40 times less storage space than their rigid counterparts. The most significant advantage becomes evident through a study done on the differences between plants grown in Plastic Planting Bags compared with plants grown in rigid containers, all other things being equal (i.e. both received identical water, fertiliser and all other cultural practices). The outcomes are summed up nicely in the words of Doctor Carl E. Whitcomb which appeared in an article published in the June 1979 issue of *American Nurserymen*:

“At the end of the growing season, plants in soft containers were five to 15 percent larger than plants in the same size rigid plastic containers. This was surprising, because the rigid containers were green and the soft containers were black and, therefore, had slightly higher soil temperatures.

However, the reason for the growth increase was highly visible when the containers were removed. Plants grown in soft containers had a more fibrous root system than plants in rigid containers. Counts of white root tips visible on the surface of the root ball were more than six times greater on plants grown in soft containers.”

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