

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to introduce our latest change to our container production.

Starting this spring, we will be potting all our bare-root fruit trees and most of our container trees into coir pots – also known as coco pots. Many of you have already seen a sample of this at the various trade shows over the last year or during our visits by Dave, Greg or myself.

For about 20 years we have been working with one form or another of these coco pots in our production. These pots have mainly been used in our nursery liners for our evergreen field production. The coco pot provides excellent air pruning capabilities, and its biodegradable material allows us to plant the pot directly into the soil. The roots of the plant grow directly into the coco fiber becoming one with the pot. Once the roots hit the outside air, they are efficiently “pruned” preventing any root circling that occurs in the industry standard plastic pots. Once the pot is planted into the soil and watered, the roots make their way through the coco fibers and into the native soil. Over time the pot degrades and is absorbed into the soil.

In the past, we have tested many forms of different coco pots but always had trouble finding one that would hold onto its retail pizzazz. In spring of 2024, our supplier brought us samples of our new coco pot line. This pot had woven handles that go from one side across the bottom and up the other side and are imbedded into the coco fiber creating a sturdy hold. A layer of natural rubber is sprayed onto the fibers to create longevity in a retail setting. He assured us these new pots should maintain their retail stability for about 2 years. We then partnered with a fellow nursery and planted hundreds of trees (conifers and deciduous) into these pots to really put them to the test.

After a full season of testing this product ourselves, we are excited to share them with you! We have invested in 7, 10, 12 gallon pot sizes for our tree production. We will also be planting a line of native perennials in a 1 gallon size, as well as our small fruit into a 3 gallon size.

This new coco pot allows us to provide you with material that has vigorous roots, won't dry out as fast as our plastic air pruned pots, and is biodegradable! We are always looking for ways to reduce our plastic consumption in our production without compromising the quality you have come to expect from AVK Nursery.

We hope you all continue to help us Cultivate Excellence in a more environmentally friendly future!

With thanks,

Dan Vander Kruk and the rest of the AVK Nursery team

Planting Instructions for Coco/Coir Pots:

Dig a hole double the width of the pot you intend to plant. **DO NOT REMOVE THE POT!** Make a few slits in the top rim of the pot and bend it over so the top of the pot is level with the soil inside it. Place the pot in the hole and back fill the hole with soil, taking extra care to cover the coco fibers completely. Any coco fibers that are left above soil level will create a wicking effect and dry out your plant. Water your plant a minimum of 3 times a week for the first two weeks. Within a few weeks the plant should break through the coco fibers and root into the native soil in its new location. The pot will break down and be absorbed by the native soil around it.