



AGING VERSES COMPOSTING EXPLANATION

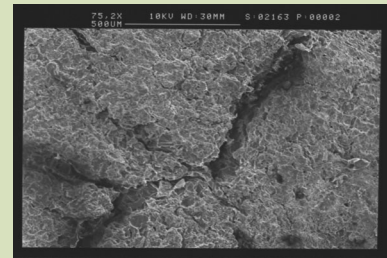
Aging bark is very much a slow form of composting (i.e. takes several years longer). Therefore we do not need to complicate the way in which we describe the difference between the two. It is actually more straight forward than we think.

The difference between aged bark and composted bark is the amount of chemical and structural change that occurs during processing.

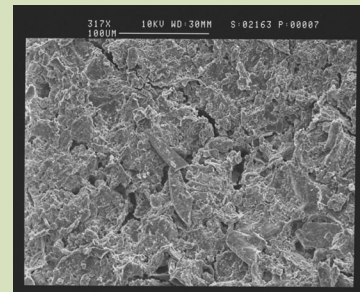
Aging bark is a slow form of composting in which only the outer layer of the bark particle is modified chemically. Toxins are still removed during the process as these are easily leached from a bark particle; however the inner portion of an aged bark particle retains its hard physical structure allowing slow degeneration within the pot. Breaking down the exterior of the bark particle only, creates the capacity for bark to absorb and hold water and nutrients for the plant while maintaining a solid structure. Under controlled processing a stable substrate such as this can be produced in just several weeks.

When composting bark, the objective is to break down the chemical and physical structure throughout the majority of the particle. This includes the removal of toxins and the breakdown of stronger cellulose compounds which are commonly found in bark. Composting also Nitrogen stabilises bark by breaking down hard compounds which usually consume nitrogen.

It is also a fact that Pinus radiata bark is a very hard substrate. It takes many years for the bark to break down therefore there is little need for larger bark particles to be nitrogen stabilised.



New Zealand Pinus Radiata



Aged New Zealand Pinus Radiata

Aging Versus Composting

New Zealand Pinus Radiata Bark

Technical Sheet