

## **NGINZ Health Warning Panel on Packaged Media**

17 September 2015

During late 2014 and 2015 a Working Group comprised of NGINZ and growing media manufacturers reviewed the health warning wording for use on bags containing composts, potting mix and other growing media. This document records the outcome of that review and the recommended process and wording available for all manufacturers to use subject to the Terms of Use of NGINZ Health Warning recorded on page 3 of this document.

Enquiries as to the use of this information should be directed to:

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# NGINZ Health Warning Panel on Packaged Media

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## Front of bag (Location Top or Bottom)

**Guidance - The warning shall be printed in at least 16 pt Arial Bold in a contrasting colour to other non-warning printing. The heading HEALTH WARNING shall be in capitals.**

### HEALTH WARNING

- Before opening read health warning on reverse of bag
- Avoid breathing product dust or mists
- Always wear gloves and wash hands immediately after use.

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## Reverse of bag (Location Reverse of Front)

**Guidance - The warning text shall be printed in a contrasting colour to other non-warning printing. The heading HEALTH WARNING shall be at least 16 pt in Arial Bold in capitals.**

**The remainder of the warning shall conform to the following**

- For bags 20L and below, the warning shall be at least 8pt
- For bags over 20L, the warning shall be at least 12pt

### HEALTH WARNING

**This product is made from organic materials which may contain living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa. Read this information before opening and using this product.**

#### Risk

Garden soils, potting mixes and composts contain micro-organisms which can be harmful to health and, although it occurs infrequently, some can result in serious illness (including Legionnaires' disease) in people especially the elderly, smokers and those with impaired respiratory health or immunity. Serious infection is rare, however in severe cases; it can be life-threatening.

#### Safety

To reduce risks when using this product, please take the following safety precautions:

- Always wear gloves when handling and wash hands after use.
- Work in a well-ventilated area
- Avoid inhaling dust or mist by wearing a disposable face mask or respirator securely covering the nose and mouth especially if
  - Handling the product in an enclosed space or in windy conditions.
  - You are elderly or have impaired respiratory health or immunity,
  - You are working with bulk quantities.
- Open the bag carefully and direct the opening away from your face.
- Keep the product damp to reduce airborne particles such as dust and avoid creating dust when cleaning up.
- Water gardens, soil mixes and potted plants gently, using a low pressure hose.

Seek medical attention if you develop high fever or respiratory symptoms including chills, shortness of breath or cough within two weeks of using this product.

To learn more about garden safety and reducing risks when gardening, visit [www.healthed.govt.nz](http://www.healthed.govt.nz) or [www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz) and search "legionella", or visit [www.nginz.co.nz/safergardening](http://www.nginz.co.nz/safergardening).

## **Terms of Use of NGINZ Health Warning**

The Nursery and Garden Industry Association New Zealand Inc (“NGINZ”) has developed a health warning panel that can be used on Potting Mix and Compost products (“NGINZ Health Warning”). By using the NGINZ Health Warning on your packaging you acknowledge that you have read and understood the following terms and agree to be bound by them.

### **DISCLAIMER**

NGINZ makes no representations about the suitability of the information contained in the NGINZ Health Warning they publish for any purpose. The entire risk arising out of their use remains with you. In no event shall NGINZ be liable for any direct, consequential, incidental, special, punitive or other damages whatsoever (including without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption, or loss of business information), even if NGINZ has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

### **INDEMNITY**

You agree to indemnify NGINZ, its officers, directors, employees, agents and subcontractors from and against any and all damage, loss, cost, liability and expense whatsoever (including legal fees) incurred by them arising directly from your use of a NGINZ Health Warning on the packaging of your products.

17 September 2015