4.1.5 Substrates

The soil or substrates in which plants are grown are adapted to their specific needs. In this way, we try to imitate the natural growth conditions for the plants as much as possible. It is therefore important to know the geographical origin of each ornamental plant used. Indoor plants are best planted in a substrate adapted to the requirements of particular plant groups. The basic components of the mixture are various ratios of peat and clay. Substrates may be:

- acidic – a pH value below 6.5
- neutral – a pH value of 6.5 to 7.5
- alkaline – a pH value above 7.5

Substrates in living walls vary according to the type of system used. More detailed information may be found in chapters 1.4.2 and 1.5. Different additives perform different functions:

- Charcoal – absorbs excess fertilizers and harmful substances
- Coarse sand – increases the permeability of the substrate
- Lime – reduces the acidity of the substrate
- Humus – binds the nutrients and improves the substrate structure
- Peat moss – accumulates nutrients and water
- Bark – binds water and minerals, improving the permeability of the substrate

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