The Possibility Using the Composted Peanut Shells in the Growth of Marigold and *Viola tricolor* Plants

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**Abstract**
This research was conducted to evaluate the possibility using peanut shells compost as a suitable medium in cultivating ornamental plants. Effect of peanut shells composts on the growth of *Viola tricolor* and marigold was investigated during seven months. Peat + perlite (with a ratio of 2:1) used as control treatment and peat replaced by 25, 50, 75 and 100 % v/v of peanut shells compost. Plant growth indices, including height, stem, leaf fresh weights, stem and leaf dry weights were measured in marigold and *Viola tricolor* plants. Results showed that peanut shells compost had more effects on growth properties like height, stem and leaf dry weigh in comparison to control. The lowest growth was related to 100% peanut shells and control treatments. The most growth of *Viola tricolor* and marigold plants resulted respectively in 25% and 75% peanut shells compost, respectively. Results showed that increasing compost peanut shells as well as reducing the use of peat, can be effective on the growth of *Viola tricolor* and marigold plant.

**Keywords:** Compost, Peanut shells, Peat, Perlite, Plant growth.