**PRESS RELEASE**

Perlite is the new way to grow

**20 May 2021:** Grolite® from [Pratley](http://www.pratleyminerals.com) is a unique, naturally occurring, perlite-based mineral that has become very popular as a horticultural growing medium. The main benefits include increased fertiliser efficiency to boost overall plant health and growth. In addition, it promotes water drainage while still retaining an ideal moisture content level in the root zone.

Pratley actively produces and processes a mineral called Perlite in South Africa that is actually a volcanic glass. The perlite raw material is then processed in special proprietary furnaces to produce products, including Grolite®, that enhance agricultural practices and increase crop yields.

Tiny micropores on the surface of the expanded Perlite particles assist to capture nutrients and water molecules. The capillary action occurring in the voids between the particles ensures uniform distribution of water and nutrients, resulting in consistent crops. Grolite® also maintains optimal soil aeration. This is a critical factor in normal plant growth as the supply of oxygen to roots in adequate quantities is essential for healthy plants.

Grolite® is processed at temperatures in excess of 950°C, resulting in a sterile product that is completely free of weeds and pathogenic microbes. Unlike ordinary horticultural Perlites, the strong surface structure of Grolite® means it does not deteriorate during transportation or when mixed. This unique feature means hydroponic farmers, for example, can reuse the product for more than one season, increasing its cost-effectiveness.

“This makes Grolite® a highly cost-efficient method to increase yields for self-sustainable farming practices,” comments Pratley Marketing Director **Eldon Kruger**. Grolite® is available nationwide in various grade sizes to cater for specific blends.

***Ends***

**Notes to the editor**

To download hi-res images for this release, please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click on the Pratley Group link to view the company’s press office.

**About Pratley**Established in 1948 by George ‘Monty’ Pratley, the various companies in the Pratley stable rest on a foundation of research and innovation in both the manufacturing and mining sectors. The various Pratley companies, drawing from 70 years of experience, have filed over 350 patents worldwide, and are ISO 9001 certified. Operating divisions are Pratley Adhesives, Pratley Electrical, Pratley Analytical, Pratley Perlite & Zeolite Mining, Pratley Craft & Decoupage, Select Hairdressing Supplies.

**Pratley Contact**

Sales

Phone: (011) 955 2190

Fax: (011) 955 3918

Email: [sales@pratley.co.za](mailto:sales@pratley.co.za)

Web: [www.pratleyminerals.com](http://www.pratleyminerals.com)

**Media Contact**Emma Anderson

NGAGE Public Relations

Phone: (011) 867-7763

Fax: 086 512 3352

Cell: 078 028 3553

Email: [emma@ngage.co.za](mailto:emma@ngage.co.za)

Web: [www.ngage.co.za](http://www.ngage.co.za)

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