Alocasia

Using **Scotts Osmocote** products available at local garden centres like Bunnings Warehouse, here is the ultimate step-by-step recipe and guide to creating a professional-grade "Aroid Mix" for your *Alocasia*.

Step 1: Gather Your Ingredients

To make the ultimate chunky mix, you will need to combine moisture-holding organic matter with coarse drainage materials:

1. **The Base (Moisture & Nutrients):** Scotts Osmocote Premium Plus Potting Mix (or use your leftover rich organic Silver Lady Fern compost mix).
2. **The Air Pockets (Structure):** Coarse Orchid Bark or Coco Chips.
3. **The Drainage (Aeration):** Jumbo Perlite or Coarse Pumice.

Step 2: Measure the 4-3-3 Ratio

In a large bucket or wheelbarrow, blend the components together using a simple scoop or pot as your measuring tool:

- **4 Parts:** Osmocote Premium Plus Potting Mix (or fern compost)
- **3 Parts:** Coarse Orchid Bark
- **3 Parts:** Perlite

Why this works: This creates an incredibly loose, "spongy" medium. When you water, the liquid will pour straight through the bottom almost instantly, but the bark and premium mix will absorb just enough moisture to keep the roots humid without drowning them.

Step 3: Mix in the Controlled-Release Fertilizer

Alocasias are voracious feeders that need heavy nutrition to push out those massive elephant-ear leaves.

- **The Product:** Measure out Scotts Osmocote Indoor Plants (if growing inside/under a patio) or **Osmocote Total All Purpose**.
- **The Dosage:** Dose according to the package directions based on your pot size (usually **1 to 2 tablespoons** for a standard 200mm pot).
- **Incorporate:** Stir the Osmocote granules evenly throughout your chunky mix so the roots can access nutrients evenly as they grow.

Step 4: Potting up the Alocasia

1. **Choose a pot with excellent drainage holes.** Avoid sealed decorative pots unless using a plastic liner insert.
2. Fill the bottom third of the pot with your newly created chunky mix.
3. Gently place the *Alocasia* in the centre. Ensure the crown (the point where the stems emerge from the root block) sits **completely above the soil line**. Burying the stems causes them to turn mushy and rot.
4. Fill around the edges with the remaining mix, tapping the sides of the pot to let the chunky bits settle into place. Do not press down hard or compact it.

Step 5: The First Water

Give the pot a very thorough drenching until water flows freely out of the bottom drainage holes. This settles the chunky mix and activates the Osmocote prills.