

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Downtown Salt Lake City Temple Square Renovation

Root Zone Mix from the Amrize Utelite Plant in Coalville Utah is a blend of native loamy topsoil, compost and Utelite Soil Conditioner. Root Zone Mix is the planting blend used by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Temple Square in Salt Lake City Utah as well as in many other church facilities.

Root Zone Mix (Amrize Utelite Lightweight Aggregates – Coalville, Utah) product information:
Components:

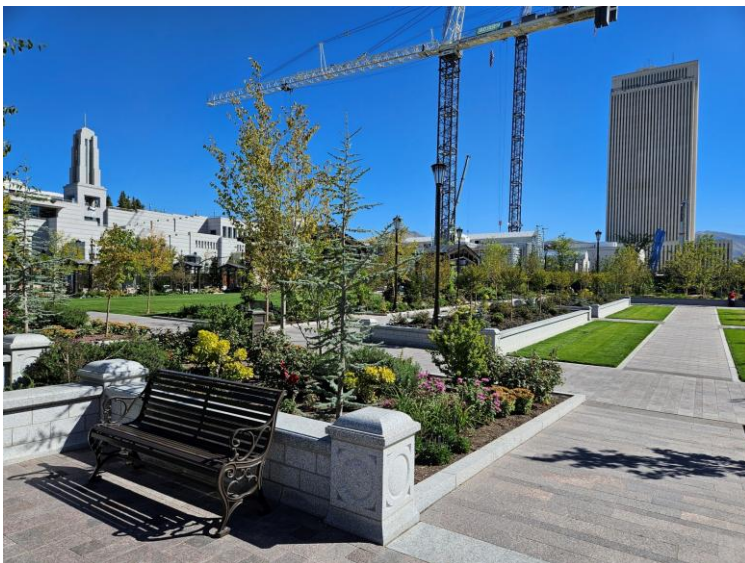
- Native loamy topsoil – provides structure, minerals, and moisture retention
- Compost – adds organic matter, nutrients, and microbial activity
- Utelite Soil Conditioner – a lightweight expanded shale product that improves aeration, drainage, and long-term soil structure

Why it's used at Temple Square:

Temple Square's gardens are famous for seasonal color displays, beauty and extremely high plant-health standards and attract thousands of visitors annually.

Root Zone Mix helps:

- Improve drainage in areas with heavy foot traffic or dense plantings
- Maintain structure over many years (expanded shale doesn't break down)
- Support vigorous root systems for ornamental flowers and shrubs
- Resist compaction from frequent replanting

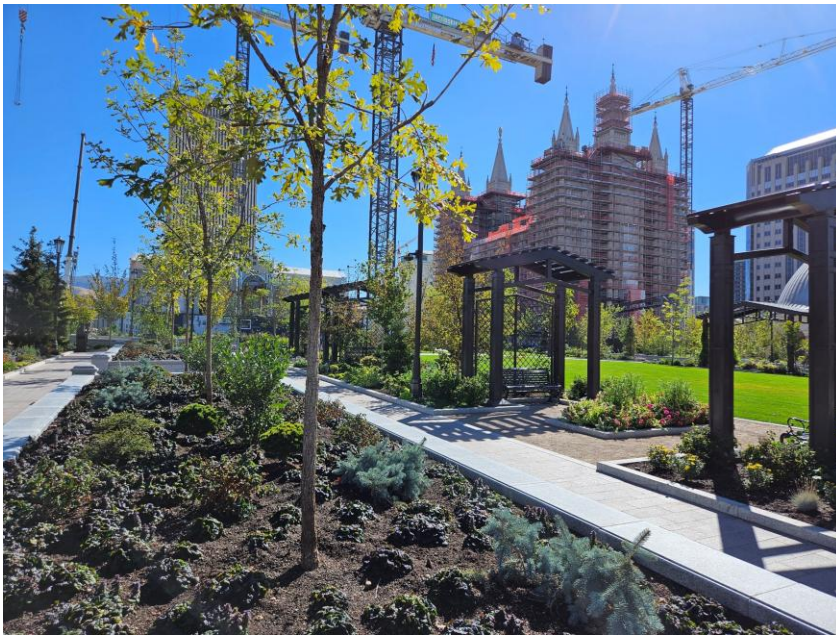


The ongoing renovation of Temple Square in Salt Lake City has added important seismic upgrades to the historic structures, reshaped the grounds and improved the landscape design that supports its world-famous gardens. As part of the multiyear revitalization, a major component has been the extensive use of Root Zone Mix, a specialized soil blend sourced from the Utelite plant in Coalville, Utah.

Over the years, horticultural teams from the church have continually focused on creating a long-term foundation for healthier, more resilient plantings, and Root Zone Mix has been consistently used for this purpose.

Root Zone Mix combines native loamy topsoil, high-quality compost, and Utelite Soil Conditioner, a lightweight expanded shale known for improving aeration and drainage.

This engineered blend provides a stable, nutrient-rich growing environment that performs exceptionally well in large, intensively planted public gardens. Over the past three years, the renovation has incorporated approximately 21,000 cubic yards of this material into new and rebuilt planter boxes throughout Temple Square. Two landscape contractors, Intermountain Plantings (BrightView) and Stratton Bratt, have installed this material in several sections or "work packs."



The benefits of Root Zone Mix extend beyond simple soil replacement. Its structure helps prevent compaction—critical in a space that undergoes heavy foot traffic and seasonal replanting and makes the removal of weeds a breeze. The compost increases microbial activity and organic matter, supporting vibrant displays of flowers and ornamental shrubs. Meanwhile, the Utelite Soil Conditioner maintains long-term porosity, ensuring that roots receive consistent oxygen and water movement even as the soil settles and ages.

As Temple Square continues its transformation, Root Zone Mix has remained an essential component in preserving the beauty and horticultural excellence visitors have come to expect. Utelite is proud to play a small part in helping to create this beautiful landscape.

