



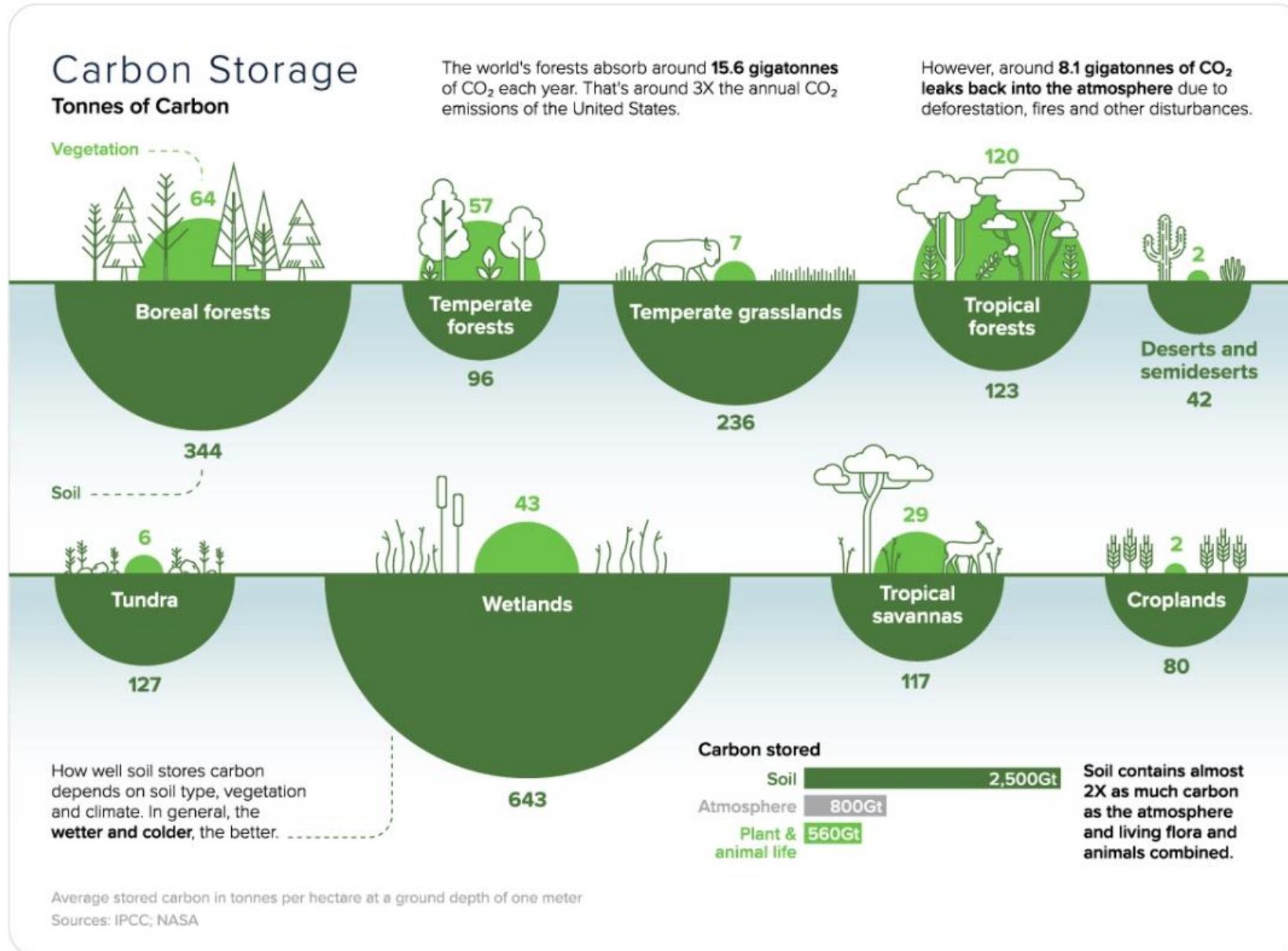
# “Transition to Peat Free”

The Royal Horticultural Society, Division of Science and Collections

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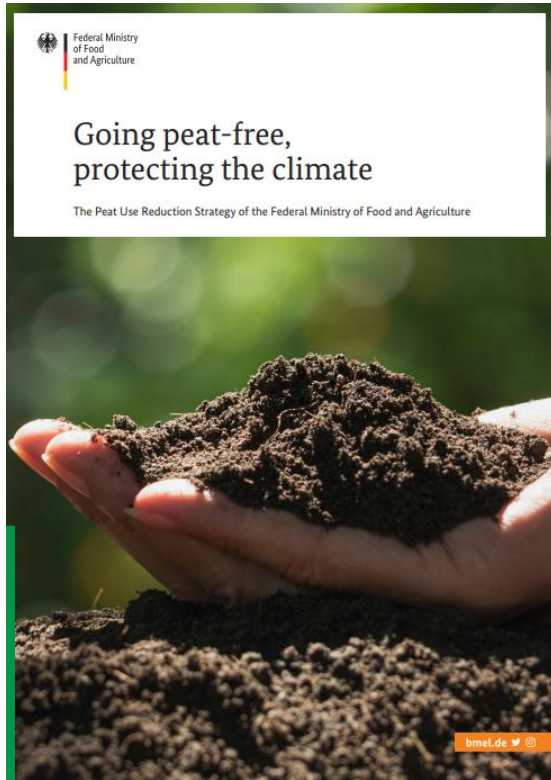
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## IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN A DAMAGED PEATLAND





- Germany: 100% peat reduction, hobby gardening by 2026. Commercial horticulture, peat replaced by 2030
- The Netherlands: Consumer market to be 60% renewable materials by 2025- 85% by 2030 and >90% by 2050. Professional market to be 35% renewables by 2025. Goals for 2030 pending further research.
- Belgium: Flemish region agreement to replace peat by local authorities. Details pending

# What is being considered for the proposed Government ban?

**Update:** December 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, Visit to RHS from Minister Rebecca Pow

- Our policy remains: legislate to ban, the sale of peat and peat containing products: 2024 bagged retail and 2026 professional with exemptions up to 2030
- **Technical exemptions:** for propagation plugs using less than 150ml of substrate and for casing material for mushroom production.
- If evidence is provided that other plant types or production processes require a technical exemption, we will consider it
- Imports of peat in container volumes less than 150ml will currently be able to continue up to 2030.
- We intend to apply the same restrictions, and exemptions, to imports and domestically produced products containing peat.

For full time line, over 43 years (1980 -2024)



## 2021 You Gov Survey (n.2000)

RHS members who agreed to the statements below:

**74.3%** “I often worry about climate change”

**79.0%** “I often worry about the loss of biodiversity”

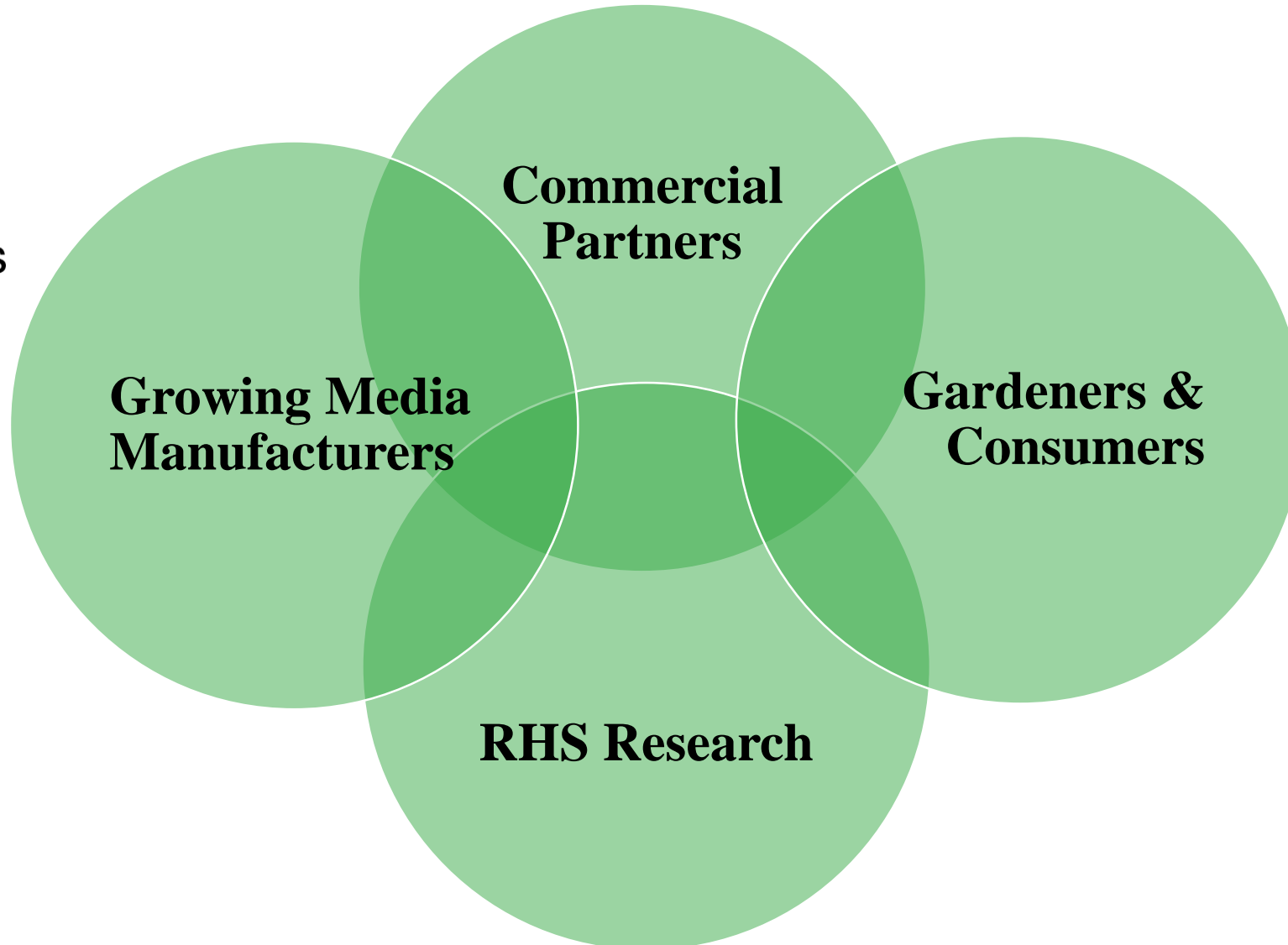
**61.1%** “feel concerned about environmental problems.”

**58%** “government should take action on ending the use of peat by 2025”

# Fellowship Project Partners and Collaborators



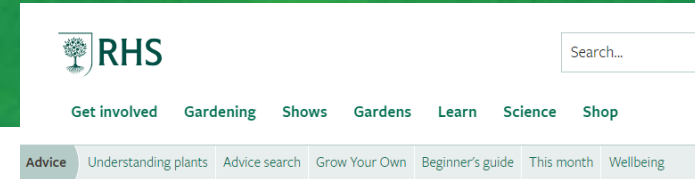
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



**JOHNSONS**  
NURSERIES



# RHS resources to support the Transition to Peat-Free HUB for Industry and Gardeners



## RHS Peat Free Hub for Growers and Gardeners



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[Gardens](#)
[Learn](#)
[Science](#)
[Shop](#)
[About](#)
[My RHS](#)

[Become a member](#)

### Everything you need to know

Follow our information portal for home gardeners or our industry portal for growers



#### FOR GARDENERS

How to go peat-free and keep your plants happy - everything you need to know



#### FOR GROWERS AND INDUSTRY

Latest information, resources and details of events and workshops to help the industry transition to peat-free

## List of peat-free nurseries in the UK

Helping gardeners, growers and buyers source more sustainably grown plants, with peat-free plants for sale near you, online and wholesale

To achieve our goal of becoming 100% peat-free across all operations by the end of 2025, as set out in the [RHS Sustainability Strategy](#), alongside helping the horticultural industry transition to peat-free, the RHS is working in partnership with Defra and industry on the ['Transition to Peat-Free Fellowship'](#).

## Technical support, communication and dissemination

- Peat Free Campaign Manager – Claire Thorpe
- Peat Free Technical Coordinator – Nikki Barker



# RHS Recommendations for Government to support the Peat-Free Transition

**Equipment and Infrastructure:** Support growing media manufacturers and growers for equipment's (e.g. bale brakers, potting machines) by grants, funding loans or by tapping into the existing equipment list provided by the government

**Cost difference between peat-reduced and peat-free growing media:** Cost was identified as the second biggest challenge in the peat-free transition. Peat-reduced is roughly 15-25% more expensive than peat-free media. Government should provide tax relief, or another mechanism, to cover the price difference between peat-reduced and peat-free grown plants for GM manufacturers and growers. Incentivise the price of woodchip and raw materials

**Research and technical support:** Support small and medium enterprise (e.g. beadaMoss) through grants, funds from government to scale up the production and identify the locally available growing media alternatives,

**Campaign and Knowledge transfer:** Government to provide increased financial support for the knowledge transfer and enhanced networking opportunities with industry i.e. The Horticulture Trade Association (HTA) and RHS collaborative growers workshops/webinars/practical demonstrations and developing technical worksheets/factsheets for growers, retailers. Campaigning to educate gardeners on right peat-free products for right purposes, growing and ramp up home composting

# RHS Recommendations for Government to support the Peat-Free Transition

**Environment agency - Removing red tape - waste Legislation:** Categorising the potential Agri./Hort. waste stream materials (e.g. Anaerobic digestate – AD, straw, hemp, miscanthus, green waste, worm casting, paper waste etc. to be explored for suitability for use by growing media manufacturers

**Contamination and green waste - waste legislation around ‘green waste’:** Government to work with councils to remove the inclusion of contamination clauses and to determine the ‘acceptable’ amount and type of materials in the green compost

**Government plant procurement for government related growing projects (e.g. highways agency):** Government to ensure the source materials used in the government projects are sourced from peat-free growers/nurseries and to consider this as a pre-requisite of procurement

**Seeking additional information/clarity around the exceptions**



# Thank you

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**Visit the RHS Peat-Free Portal  
For Industry:**

**[www.rhs.org.uk/peat-free-industry](http://www.rhs.org.uk/peat-free-industry)**



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