



RHS PEAT- FREE POLICY

Shows Exhibitors and
Suppliers



WHAT IS THE RHS PEAT-FREE POLICY

- The RHS is aiming to be **100% peat-free** in all operations by **01/01/2026**
- **RHS Policy** only applies to plants **used or sold** at RHS shows or outlets
- If suppliers or exhibitors are producing for other outlets or shows that are not 100% peat-free – that is fine, as long as they don't come to ours!

LEGACY PEAT - DEFINITION

- Any peat that is **already in the production system** up to 31/12/25
- Age, size or type of plant doesn't matter, as long as any potting action after 31/12/25 uses peat-free growing media
- Container-grown specimens will have residual peat for many years
- Plug plants etc bought in 2025 that contain peat, and potted into peat-free in 2026, are considered **legacy peat** and plants can be sold or exhibited through the RHS

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE RHS SUPPLY CHAIN?

- **All** nursery potting operations plants must be peat-free after 01/01/26
- Plug plants or propagation material purchased in 2026 must be peat-free for plants to be sold at RHS events or outlets from 01/01/26 onwards – **100% peat free**
- Suppliers and exhibitors will be asked to **declare** that the plants you are selling/exhibiting at RHS shows or outlets comply with our policy

WHAT IS THE RHS DOING TO HELP?

- RHS Peat-Free Fellowship – commercial trials with industry partners
- Helping our suppliers and exhibitors to set up their own trials
- Workshops and conferences
- Sharing knowledge – RHS and external
- Hampton Court Feature Garden
- Working with retailers as well as growers
- Case studies

RHS PEAT FREE HUB

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Peat-free gardening

Peatlands are natural boggy habitats that store over twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined, despite covering an area ten times smaller. They are also unique ecosystems, with a range of wildlife depending on them. Extracting peat destroys habitats, releases stored carbon and increases flood risk. Preserving peat bogs is vital in the fight against climate change.



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

DEFRA POLICY

- Our policy remains that we intend to legislate to restrict, and ultimately ban, the sale of peat and peat containing products.
- There is good support for this from the public and within Parliament
- We have seen a significant reduction in peat use, due to the demand for peat-free growing media from an increasingly environmentally aware public.
- Peat use has reduced from 2,292,000 cubic metres in 2020 to 950,000 cubic metres in 2022.
- In the “amateur” sector the reduction is from 1,521,000 cubic metres to 471,000 cubic metres.



Here is the good news!

- 17 exhibitors are already 100% peat-free in all operations
- 35% of exhibitors are already compliant with our policy
- 25% more anticipate being compliant by 2026
- 21% are working towards this but need help! That is what we are here for 😊
- Nurseries on our 100% peat-free list are applying to be show exhibitors

Shows Exhibitors Peat Free Status Progress - 148 in Total

