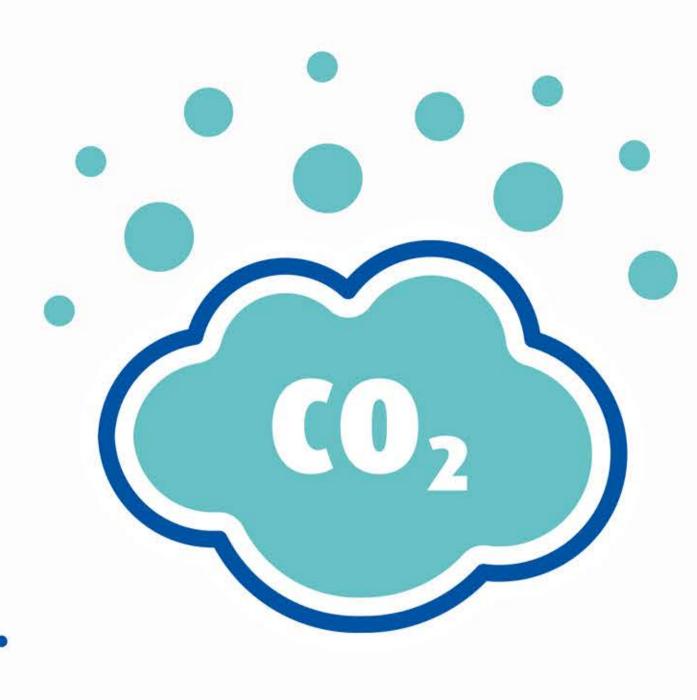
OUR PEAT FREE JOURNEY



For over half a century peat has been used in growing plants because of its ability to hold water and its neutral ph.

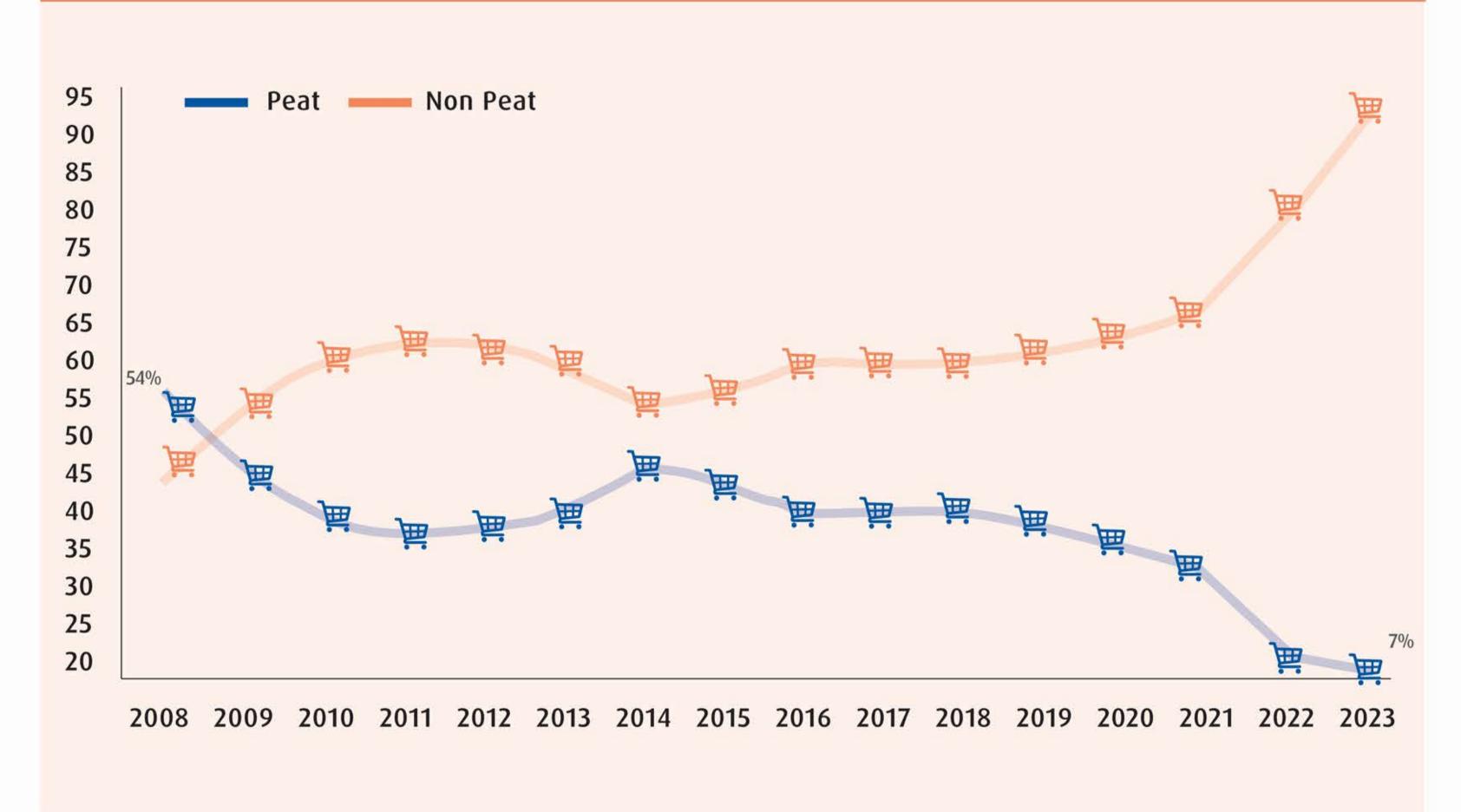
Peat bogs act as a carbon sink and the process of harvesting releases Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere accelerating climate change, so it is time to alter our ways.



In 2008 we were part of the Growing Media Initiative that was set up to inform customers about growing media and its peat content. At that time, we committed to advertise the peat percentage of every product in our compost area giving information so customers could make their own judgment.

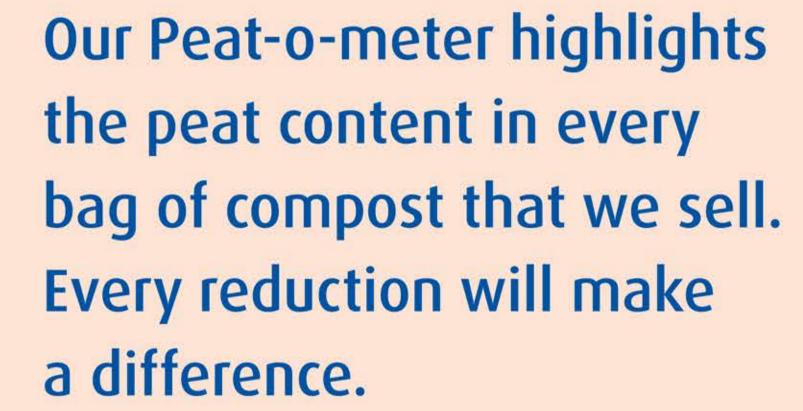
Since 2008 we have been recording the peat percentage of the products that we retail.

Yearly Peat % Sales Comparison

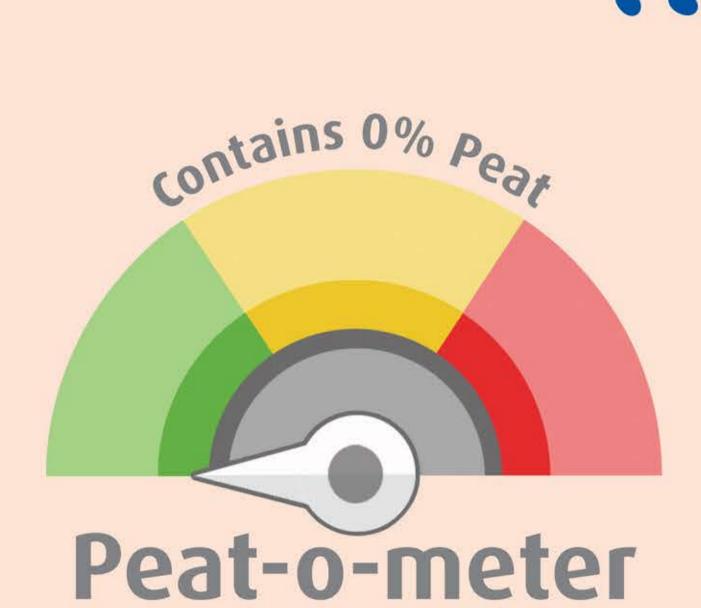


Approximately 66% of all the peat usage in the Horticultural Sector is by home gardeners, most of that is in products such as multipurpose compost and growing bags. Over the years there have been significant improvements in the development of peat alternatives, and many have become firm favourites amongst our customers.

Together we are going in the right direction, but now we really have to make this the year to change!







It is also acknowledged that further evidence is required to demonstrate the environmental credentials of alternative products such as bark, coir, processed wood, composted green material, vermiculite, etc. to ensure that peat replacement brings about genuine and worthwhile environmental benefits. This comes under the auspices of The Responsible Sourcing Scheme. This is an industry led scheme to provide a framework that allows manufacturers to rate the environmental impact of all the materials used in growing media against the same seven criteria for each raw material that make up more that 5% of the product.

The seven criteria are: Energy use, Water use, Social Compliance, Habitat, Pollution, Renewability and Resource use efficiency.

Look out for the logo and QR code on compost bags so you can see the environmental impact of a product.

'A' is the most environmentally and socially responsible on a scale of A to E. Visit responsiblesourcing.org.uk for more information.

Fresh compost is always best, use compost within the season of purchase and preferably within one year of manufacture.

What can I do to help in my garden? Make sure you use the right product for the right task in the garden, try making your own compost or purchase a peat free or a reduced peat compost.



If you are looking to improve the soil in your flower bed or allotment you do not need to dig multipurpose compost into the ground – use a soil conditioner such as Levington Soil Conditioner or Sylvagrow Farmyard which do not contain any peat at all.

Our recommendations for peat free are :-

Grow bags

 Our grow bags are peat free and the Sylvagrow Planter and Levington Tomato Grow Bag are organic as well

Growing Vegetables in containers

- Miracle Gro Fruit & Vegetable Compost
- Sylvagrow Organic All Purpose

All-Purpose Compost

- Miracle-Gro Premium All Purpose Compost
- Sylvagrow Multipurpose (also suitable for vegan gardening)
- New Horizon All Purpose

For use with lime hating plants

- Sylvagrow Ericaceous
- Miracle Gro Ericaceous

For pots and containers

- Westland Multi-purpose with added John Innes
- Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Compost

What do I need to do if I use peat free compost? Plants grown in peat free compost may need different

Our top tips for Watering

Always water at the beginning or end of the day, cooler temperatures mean less evaporation. If you are planting

care to help you get the best results.

hanging baskets or containers for summer, use Stay Wet water absorbent crystals with compost to retain moisture. Peat Free composts can look dry on the top while still wet underneath so it can be easy to overwater in cooler weather, sticking a finger into the compost to see if it is moist past the top layer is advised before watering. Use bark, Strulch or gravel mulch on top of the surface to help retain moisture in flower beds.

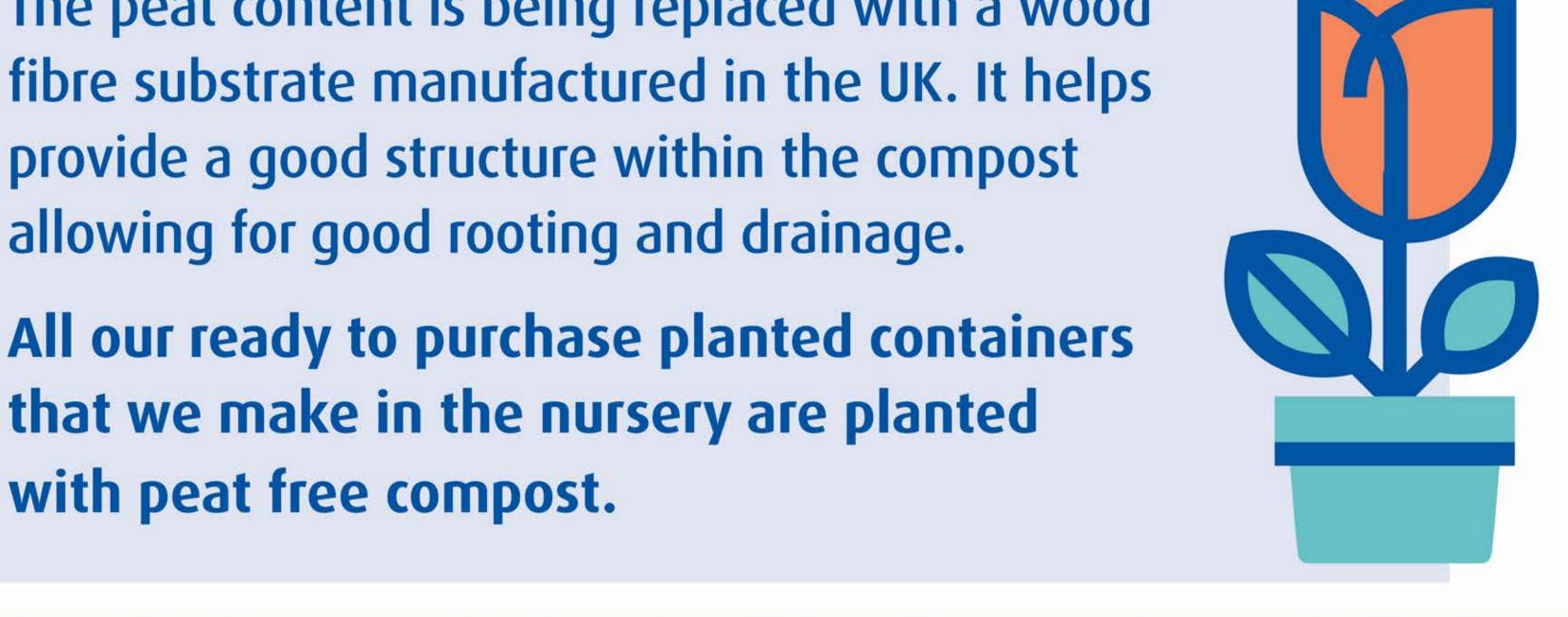
Our top tips for Feeding

Before planting in beds, borders or containers mix granules of Continuous Release Fertiliser with the compost, one dose will feed all season. If you are looking for an organic option for fruit and vegetables our choice would be Tomorite Organic Tomato Food, or Maxicrop Plant Growth Stimulant.

What are we doing in our own nursery?

We, like many growers, are working on how we can move to peat free, but we need to do so in a controlled way based on trials. This year our home-grown crops will be grown in a compost that is at least 40% reduced peat. The peat content is being replaced with a wood fibre substrate manufactured in the UK. It helps provide a good structure within the compost

All our ready to purchase planted containers that we make in the nursery are planted with peat free compost.





Environmental awareness and concerns are fundamental to us in every aspect of our business