



B&Q Peat Buying Standards

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socialresponsibility
Community | Diversity | Ethical | Environment

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Introduction

B&Q recognises that the use of peat in growing media has a finite future, without the exploitation of currently unharvested peat bogs. We will therefore work progressively towards eliminating the use of peat in our products without compromising product performance or customer confidence.

Implementation

B&Q will continue its policy, established in 1991, of not buying or selling peat extracted from peatland sites of recognised ecological, archaeological or other conservation value (worldwide). This strategy continues and has expanded to include areas that have been notified or proposed for notification under the relevant national or international regulatory regime for the country that the peat is sourced from.

B&Q also requires sound plans for restoration of biodiversity interest at the cessation of peat extraction for the bogs from which B&Q peat is sourced. In order to achieve this aim we will continue to work with our entire supply chain to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of peat, through a sustained peat dilution and replacement programme. This includes branded and own-branded products, and peat used as a growing media for plants sold in pots.

B&Q recognises that using alternative or recycled materials in horticulture will help reduce peat consumption as well as benefit sustainable development. B&Q will work with Governments, NGO's and the industry for a joint approach to increasing availability and use of recycled and other alternative materials towards achieving this target.

Our aim is to manage, minimise and eventually eliminate our peat use in a controlled manner. We will use declining amounts of peat, as a proportion of the total volume, and we will continue to ensure that it has been extracted with the minimum amount of environmental impact.

We are also considering a wider range of sustainable materials which could be used to replace peat and produce products which consistently perform at the same standards as the peat based equivalents.

We regard it as essential that we enable our customers to make informed choices about their purchases. We will therefore take the following steps:

- Provide consistent, factual information to our customers about peat alternatives and the reasons for choosing them;
- Stock a range of alternatives to peat and peat based products at competitive prices;
- We will not source peat from any new or existing peat concessions opened post 2005, as a minimum, for either our bagged media and for the peat supplied to our growers/nursery suppliers;
- Clearly label products that contain peat, and identify the percentage in each product;
- Actively participate in the Growing Media Initiative (<http://www.thehta.org.uk/page.php?pageid=169>)
- Progress on peat dilution will be reported within our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's); and

- We will develop dilution strategies for peat used as growing media for plants sold in pots, where possible, given the specific requirements of the plants, using the same principles as for growing media.

Peat Dilution Targets

The current position with respect to our dilution targets is under review and will be based on the UK Governments position. This will be influenced and informed by the release of government backed research and the subsequent public consultation due in the summer of 2010. In the interim period B&Q will continue to work on reducing the amount of peat used in our bagged media in line with our GMI Full Member requirements and to work with our growers to further decrease the amount of peat used in our plants.