

Press release

Thursday 16 December

**EMBARGOED to 00:01 Saturday 18 December**

**“Work with us to phase out peat use, protect the environment and safeguard the UK horticulture industry.”** As Defra and the Welsh government launch their ‘Ending Retail Sale of Peat in Horticulture in England and Wales’ consultation, the UK horticulture industry highlights collaboration as the key to solving the issue of peat-use.

The horticulture sector is a green industry at its core and fully supports government ambitions to end the use of peat, an objective it has united to achieve voluntarily through the work of its Growing Media Taskforce. The group spoke out today as Defra officially launched a long-awaited consultation on a proposal to ban peat, saying p

complemented by the development of a learning program to improve garden centres' ability to advise consumers, as proactive ways to support change.

"Positive collaboration with government, not an unnecessary ban, unrealistic timescales and threats of yet more taxes is the key to a horticulture sector without peat. An industry-government partnership would enable UK horticulture to achieve the international competitive-edge and certainty it requires to 'green our economy'", Barnes concluded.

"We continue to do everything we can to remove peat, but it needs government to step up to support this change."

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

The horticulture industry has already reduced peat to a historic low – 35% in retail – and is committed to removing peat from its operations – 2025-2028 for retail and 2028-2030 for professional nursery plant production. See the [Growing Media Monitor](#) report all for figures and statistics.

\*In 2020 the volume of peat alternatives in amateur growing media increased by 50%. Peat accounted for 35.5per cent of the volume of ingredients in growing media sold for retail use.

\*\*Alternative ingredients of growing media could include coir, bark, other wood-based products, composted green waste and other organic ingredients such as sheep's wool

\*\*\*Source: HTA independent survey September 2021, Base: 104 retailer members

End-of-waste criteria specify when certain waste ceases to be waste and becomes a product,