



CASTLE | BRIMSMORE | POUNDBURY

# Our Peat Policy

***In line with our commitment to the environment***

## **What the Government says**

The Government has decided that the use of peat in horticulture should be phased out completely by 2020. This target date has been slipping for years but has finally been implemented. The reason for this is that the extraction of peat releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

## **The Gardens Group is committed to achieving that target**

### **Peat based composts**

Peat is an excellent basis for quality composts. However, the techniques for growing in peat free composts are not the same as for peat based composts. So to change overnight from peat based composts to peat free composts would alienate many gardeners having perhaps a greater detrimental impact on the environment.

### **We're working towards the target**

We offer our customers the choice of three different peat-free options with a long term multi-buy offer on one of them to encourage gardeners to experiment with moving away from peat based compost. Peat-free grow-bags are also available throughout the peak season.

We also believe that soil improvers and mulches do not need to be peat based and have a number of such products available.

We host lots of school visits with children invited to plant up their own pots of bedding or vegetable plants to take home. As part of this process young people can be introduced to peat free growing media and helped to understand the importance of it. Science teachers in particular seem to enjoy expanding on this topic once back in classrooms.

Our aim is to take customers with us on a transition to peat free gardening, supplying plenty of support and advice where it is required. We trial all of the products in our nursery and the results can be seen in the crops that we have available for sale.

*If you have any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us – we'd like to share any great ideas with other gardeners. Email [castle@thegardensgroup.co.uk](mailto:castle@thegardensgroup.co.uk)*