

# Peat : The Facts



- 🌱 Lowland peat bogs cover 3% of the world's surface yet they store 30% of the carbon in all our soil worldwide.
- 🌱 Peat forms at a rate of 1mm a year. That means 1m takes between 800 to 900 years to form.
- 🌱 Peat extraction releases 3.7 million tonnes of Carbon dioxide into the atmosphere yearly.
- 🌱 Shockingly, as gardeners we inadvertently contribute to the destruction of this precious environment and increase climate change.

## Positive Changes

- 🌱 The RHS stopped sales of compost bags containing peat in 2019, with the aim to be completely peat-free by 2025.
- 🌱 The government aims to phase out peat products for amateur gardeners by 2024 and for the horticultural industry by 2030.
- 🌱 Peat-free compost is widely available. Here are some local trail-blazers :
  - B&Q aim to be completely peat-free in their bagged range by 2022
  - Chatsworth and Matlock Garden Centres aim to trial a peat-free range of shrubs and perennials this autumn
  - Tissington Plant Nursery have been growing their own plants peat-free since 2017
  - Parwich and District Horticultural Society intend to only sell plants grown in peat-free compost from next year
  - Ashbourne tip sells a peat-free soil enhancer for £3 a bag.

**AS GARDENERS WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**