Peatering Out™ - towards a sustainable UK growing media industry

An English Nature and RSPB joint report based on commissioned research by horticultural consultants Rainbow Wilson Associates. The contributions of Cambridge Recycling Services Ltd and the Composting Association are also gratefully acknowledged.
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Summary

- *Peatering Out* presents a scenario that would end the commercial use of peat in the UK in 10 years. This would end commercial pressure upon one of the UK’s rarest wildlife habitats and meet the targets of the Government Biodiversity Action Plan for peat use reduction.

- Green compost would form the basis of replacement materials, mixed with diluents such as woody residues from the forestry and related industries.

- Sufficient alternative materials will be available domestically to replace peat as the UK composting industry develops to meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive. Kerbside collections of biodegradable waste and in-vessel composting systems will help to attain targets for composting.

- Peat replacement in horticulture will best be achieved by a period of progressive dilution of peat products rather than by an abrupt changeover.

- Retail products offer the best opportunities for early replacement of peat and will lead the professional growers in peat dilution.

- Peat alternatives based on green compost are of comparable price to products based on peat of domestic origin, if composting and production is located near to market. Peat will become more expensive as the proportion of imported peat continues to rise, whereas prices of peat alternatives will fall as market share and production increase.

- Extensive trials of peat free growing media are needed to fine-tune products to specific applications across the UK, and to build confidence and understanding of alternative materials throughout the horticulture industry.

- Investment is required to replace peat with new materials and a guide budget of £500,000 per year for a 10 year programme is suggested. Government must provide policy and financial support for the changeover but cannot provide all the resources required.

- Replacing peat with peat alternatives based on green compost will provide jobs in a sustainable UK growing media industry. The current demand for peat-based products is increasingly met through imports.
Introduction

Peat use in the UK could end within 10 years. This would end the commercial interest in lowland raised bogs and remove any future threat of habitat destruction. It would also give the UK growing media industry a sustainable future, freed from the limited resources of the UK’s commercial peat reserves.

The RSPB and English Nature have worked with horticultural consultants Rainbow Wilson Associates to produce an achievable plan to phase peat out of gardening and horticulture. As wildlife conservation organisations, English Nature and the RSPB welcome, and indeed will rely upon, productive partnerships and co-operative working among gardeners and growers to make practical solutions to the peat problem happen. Together, we can finally solve a conservation and commercial problem that has been widely described as causing the UK’s equivalent to rainforest destruction.

Background

The Peatering Out programme will fulfil three distinct requirements: the conservation of raised bog peatlands; securing a sustainable growing media industry in the UK; and helping to drive the development of the nascent UK composting industry.

Nature conservation

Growing media in the UK are based on peat which is industrially mined from lowland raised peatbogs. These are among the UK’s rarest habitats and 94 per cent have been lost. Commercially used peatlands are recognised as an important wildlife conservation resource. In England, 85% of planning consents for peat extraction take place on or adjacent to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, listed by Government as of national environmental importance. Furthermore, between 50% to 60% of UK peat production is located on sites proposed as Special Areas of Conservation and meeting the European Union’s criteria for international environmental importance.

Replacing peat in growing media will not merely safeguard the future of lowland raised peatbogs in the UK for wildlife; it will also avoid simply passing on our environmental problems associated with the extraction of peat to other countries.

A sustainable UK growing media industry

Industrial peat extraction in the UK is a sunset industry: our small lowland peat resource will run out and the industry will close. Recent trends have shown an increase in peat imports to the UK, to counter the problems of domestic peat extraction and the exhaustion of quality peat reserves (1). Peatering Out will bring two benefits to the UK horticulture and gardening industries: it will resolve the doubts
over future availability of peat; and it will retain a domestic growing media industry, providing additional employment in the UK.

**The UK composting industry**
The EU Landfill Directive sets ambitious, legally binding targets for diverting biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. *Peatering Out* will be an important driver for the developing UK composting industry, creating volume demand for a high quality, high value compost product.

**A peat-free future**

Already there are significant moves away from the use of peat in growing media. The National Trust’s members voted decisively in 1999 for a motion to end the Trust’s use of peat. The ground-breaking Eden Project, creating tropical ecosystems in the world’s largest biomes in a Cornish china clay quarry, uses no peat. B&Q, the UK’s largest peat retailer, announced a new peat policy in April 2001 that aims for peat alternatives to provide 85% by volume of all growing media and soil improvers by the end of 2006. And a recent ADAS/MAFF seminar reported that there is a successful horticulture business somewhere in the UK producing virtually every kind of commercial crop without using peat.

The growing media industry has entered a new era of innovation. A variety of materials have now joined the old stand-by coir as peat alternatives, including green compost, agricultural wastes, bark and other wood waste, chipboard residues, and others. The Great Mills DIY retail chain introduced a competitively priced green compost/low peat multi-purpose compost in 2000; Terra EcoSystems has enjoyed modest success with a regionally-marketcd biosolids-based range of peat alternatives; Sinclair Horticulture has its New Horizon range and Gem Horticulture has a peat-free multipurpose compost understood to be based on green compost, to select just four examples.

But these examples are not industry drivers: they are demonstrations of what could be achieved. Much more effort is required to move established industry-wide practices to a new, peat-free footing. The *Peatering Out* project will provide the information and security to enable horticultural businesses and retailers to make the transition without commercial loss. It will ultimately give UK industry an edge over competitors, by establishing a green benchmark that others will be forced to follow. And it will give gardeners the surety that they can grow their own garden paradises without causing damage to natural ones.

**A 10 year plan**

*Peatering Out* plans a gradual phase-out of peat over the 10 year timescale prescribed in the Government’s Habitat Action Plan for lowland raised bogs (2). This will be a period of gradual transition
and change-over towards peat-free growing media. This period is essential to enable manufacturers to produce the volumes of quality material required, and to allow peat users the time to adjust to new materials.

*Peatering Out* recognises that for many users, a gradual phase-out of peat through progressive dilution with other materials will be the most realistic way to work towards ending peat use. This phasing will also provide the time required for composters and manufacturers to produce the volumes of high quality materials required to replace peat in the UK. A comprehensive programme of growing trials will help growers learn about the new materials and gain the knowledge and confidence to use them successfully in their businesses.

Green compost, using residues from gardening, landscaping and other horticultural activities as source material, will form an essential component of a peat-free future. It will be used as the initial diluent with peat, because of its low cost. Green composts cannot, however, be used on their own as growing media and they need treating and diluting before they can become effective peat replacements. Later, woody diluents will become more predominant, with the technical benefits of lower bulk density and lower pH than green composts. Other materials, for example biosolids from water treatment plants, are also likely to contribute, albeit modestly, to the future range of peat alternatives.

![Figure 1. Reduction of peat over 10 years (based on DETR data for 1999 + 5% market growth).](image)
Figure 1 shows a planned reduction of peat over the 10 year period, and Figure 2 the volumes of green compost and diluent required to replace peat. Both graphs are based on a 5% cumulative annual growth of growing materials. Achieving a 50% reduction in peat use in five years presents a realistic target for the overall market and will give important savings in peat.

The retail market offers the biggest opportunity for the early replacement of peat. Home gardeners need quality products, but their requirements are not as critical as those of professional growers. Home gardeners are also the biggest users, accounting for 65% of growing media (1) so even a modest initial overall peat dilution will result in substantial and worthwhile peat savings.

The replacement of peat across all retail growing media products is given in Figure 3. Green compost should initially be used to dilute peat, with gradual introduction of woody diluents from year four, by which time a peat saving of approximately 50% will have been achieved. Peat replacement for the five main retail product types are shown in Appendix 1. Growing bags offer the greatest opportunities for rapid replacement of peat, followed by multi-purpose products, container mixes and ericaceous formulations. Multipurpose products however account for an estimated 80 per cent of retail product volume.
The change-over to peat alternatives will be slower in the professional horticulture market. Specifications are required to manufacture professional products to the highest standards and consistency. Growers need to have thorough confidence, knowledge and familiarity with materials before they will use new materials for commercial crops, on which their livelihood depends. Nonetheless there is a burgeoning interest in peat alternatives among growers and significant numbers are using alternatives, either in reduced-peat or peat-free formulations. Indeed, forest residues are already well accepted by growers, both in reduced-peat and peat-free growing media.

Figure 4 shows the overall replacement of peat use in UK horticulture. Individual charts for replacing peat in each of the main nursery sectors (container nursery stock, pot plants, bedding plants, vegetable transplants, growing bags, mushrooms and bulbs and flowers) are given in Appendix 2. For most product areas, green compost and woody diluents can gradually replace peat in equal measure from the start. Growing media for vegetable transplants however will need to use relatively low proportions of green waste while for mushrooms, peat will be diluted and eventually replaced entirely by woody materials.
Growing media from green compost

The on-demand availability of quality, commercially viable growing media from green compost, derived from composted green wastes and botanical residues, is core to the success of Peatering Out.

The EU Landfill Directive requires an ongoing reduction in the proportion of biodegradable waste being disposed of in landfill. It is estimated that almost 5 million tonnes of compostable biodegradable municipal solid waste will need to be composted by 2010 for the UK to meet its Landfill Directive targets (3). In comparison, 0.8 million tonnes of organic waste was actually composted in 1998.

Peatering Out will assist the UK to meet its Landfill Directive targets, by developing a market for a quality, high value composted product. The lack of a such a market has been identified as one of the principal barriers to more widespread commercial composting (4).

Although the foundations for the growth of the composting industry are now laid, progress is required in four key areas to achieve sufficient volumes of quality material to supersede peat within 10 years:

- the growth of the composting industry
- standardised compost quality
- availability of woody diluents
- the fine-tuning of peat-free growing media

Figure 4. Replacement of peat in all professional products
1 Growth of the composting industry

Peatering Out will require a little over 2 million m$^3$ of green compost annually by the end of the 10 year peat replacement period.

The UK’s output of green compost will increase by an average of 20% per annum during the next decade, according to the Composting Association. By 2010, the UK will be composting 5 million tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste per annum, to meet its obligations under the Landfill Directive. This would produce 2.5 million tonnes, or 3.5 to 4 million m$^3$, of green compost. Not all of this will be suitable for use in growing media, and indeed there are other demands for lower-grade green compost, such as for soil improvers. Nevertheless Peatering Out’s requirements for green compost are likely to be met by 2010. Furthermore, the progressive targets of the Landfill Directive will significantly increase the availability of compost by 2013.

Achieving the Landfill Directive’s targets will require vigorous growth of the composting industry. More than 60 composting facilities with an annual capacity of 40,000 tonnes each will be required by 2013, from a level of 10 equivalent plants in 1999 (5). Kerbside collections of green waste will need to be developed. This is commonplace in several European countries. Two successful schemes in the UK, in Bury St Edmunds and Daventry, ably demonstrate that kerbside source-separated waste collection could operate on a much wider scale in the UK.

Planning and licensing problems are often cited as holding back the development of composting industry in the UK. The lack of detailed Government and regulatory body guidance, conflicting advice on the issues involved and a lack of understanding have often resulted in a cautious approach to applications for what the public often perceives as undesirable development.

There are various specific problems. There is a lack of suitable locations identified in PPG10 and in local waste plans. Existing quarries and landfill sites do not provide for permanent facilities and high rents in industrial areas, and close proximity to other businesses, make operations unviable in many areas. The re-development of farmyards or farm buildings is often constrained from expanding by poor access or restrictive landscape policies. For small-scale operations, guidance is unclear about when planning permission is required and there are inconsistencies in approach between local authorities, together with a lack of co-ordination between planning and pollution control authorities. Unfortunately, poorly operated sites have resulted in uncertainties over the impact of developments, particularly with regard to odour, and concerns have more recently arisen over the effect of bio-aerosols.

The adoption of ‘in-vessel’ systems will go a long way towards resolving the impact issues of composting operations. The Environment Agency is now supporting ‘in vessel’ as its preferred
approach for large scale centralised facilities, substantially reducing emissions and minimizing the risk of any adverse effects. With composting enjoying clear support in both national and local waste strategies, a swift resolution to the outstanding issues is required, together with better public understanding of the issues and benefits of composting.

2 Standardised quality green compost
Growers and gardeners need compost products that are of consistent high quality and that are safe and effective to use. The Composting Association has recently introduced a compost standard scheme that addresses the issue of compost quality.

The Composting Association Standards for Composts ensure that compost is produced to agreed procedures, is tested by standardised methods, has passed standardised quality requirements and is properly labelled. Composters who join the scheme and meet the requirements achieve a certificate of compliance and can use the Standard’s compost quality mark on their products.

The Standards for Composts scheme sets concentration limits for a range of potentially toxic elements, physical contaminants, weed propagules and human pathogens. They also stipulate minimum performance levels in tests for the presence of substances toxic to plants. The Standards also ensure that adequate information is given on product packaging and documentation, including ingredients, producer contact details and compost characteristics such as pH, electrical conductivity, nitrogen content and particle size grading.

3 Availability of woody diluents
In the early phases of Peatering Out, peat will be the principal diluent of growing media based on green compost. From the fourth year, other diluents will begin to gradually replace peat as a diluent. Some early dilution of peat will be with materials other than green compost.

Peat, forestry residues (especially bark), agricultural residues (eg straw), coir, wood residues (eg recycled chipboard) and loam are all currently used as diluents in commercial formulations of growing media. Forestry residues and wood residues are likely to become the main diluents used with green compost based growing media.

Currently, around one million m$^3$ of bark and other forestry-derived substrates are used in the UK. However, this is a small proportion of the current potentially available forestry substrate. This is estimated at 5.6 million m$^3$, with roughly equal volumes of bark and brash. Furthermore, UK forestry will increase by around one-third during the next decade. Additionally, there are other sources of woody diluents. For example, some 100,000 tonnes of post-consumer chipboard and other panel products are currently incinerated or landfilled, which will increase by 50 per cent over the next decade.
Figure 5. Substrates for peat replacement

Figure 5 forecasts the need and availability of green compost and woody diluents for *Peatering Out*. In the early years, green compost is likely to be in short supply. Surplus woody diluents are projected to be available to make up volume of material required and product formulations can be adjusted to achieve the overall annual targets of peat reduction.

4 Fine-tuning quality green compost growing media

There is growing acknowledgement that peat-free growing media can have technical performance to match the performance of peat-based products. This has been demonstrated in many commercially confidential trials and more recently through more public trials by ADAS, the National Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society.

There are still concerns, however, that commercially available peat alternatives do not perform as well as peat-based products. This is particularly true for growing media used for plant raising from seeds and cuttings.

The principal problems of green compost based growing media, especially important in plant raising, are the high pH and high nutrient content. There are now proven techniques for addressing these problems, but a modest amount of further work is needed to refine processes for commercial production.

Economic consideration of peat alternatives

Peat alternatives must be cost-effective and competitive if they are to win out over the pre-eminence of peat in gardening and horticulture.
Peat-based products are currently manufactured at a small number of locations in situations remote from most markets. In contrast, green compost can be produced close to market, considerably reducing transport miles.

This is an important factor in the cost of peat alternatives. Transport is a significant part of the total cost of growing media products. Green compost, and woody diluents, have higher bulk density than peat and transport costs are some 90 per cent and 45 per cent higher respectively. As peat is replaced by green compost and woody diluents, production should move closer to market areas. This is also of course where the majority of biodegradable residues for composting are concentrated.

Figure 6 illustrates typical costs of peat, diluted peat and peat alternatives delivered from source to market. A trade-off between costs of raw material and transport is clearly demonstrated. The scenario for the Figure analyses the costs of various substrate types and sources sold as growing media in London. Regionally produced green compost mixed with Norfolk woody diluents is price competitive with peat from Lancashire/Yorkshire. The UK’s principal commercial peat resources are located in Cumbria, Lancashire, Somerset, Yorkshire and central Scotland, each of which has transport cost implications according to location of market.

The low peat mixes benefit from the double benefit of low transport costs of peat and regionally produced green compost. The high cost of the peat mix from Ireland and England is particularly significant—most peat-based products are mixes of peat from more than one source. Notably, the increasing proportion of imported peat will result in a gradual rise in the cost of peat over the coming years. Conversely, costs for peat alternatives will fall as the products gain wider acceptance and investment and economies of scale bring cost benefits.

**Confidence in new products**

The main constraints to achieving Peatering Out are not technical or economic, but are to do with attitudes and accustomed practice.

*Peatering Out* must gain the interest, enthusiasm and commitment of gardeners, growers and the horticulture trade to embrace a new age of sustainable, peat-free horticulture. In particular, *Peatering Out* must demonstrate that:

- growers can reduce their dependence on peat in growing media progressively without compromising profitability
- garden retailers can maintain profitability and customer satisfaction by changing to peat-free growing media progressively
• gardeners will have retail peat-free growing media that are good value for money, reliable and easy and pleasant to use
• the time has now arrived to start the wholesale shift from peat to peat-free growing media.

An extensive programme of growing trials, product demonstration and communications is needed to show growers, product manufacturers, retailers and home gardeners that peat-free growing media can replace peat-based ones without compromising quality, performance or costs.
Three series of trials need to be undertaken:

**Technical Trials**
Satisfactory prototype formulations of peat-free growing media based on green compost are now available and a green compost/low-peat growing medium is now established in the range of at least one DIY retail chain. Further technical development work however is required to refine the consistency, supply and cost-effectiveness of low-peat and peat-free growing media based on green compost.

This work should encompass the range of growing media products currently used by both commercial growers and home gardeners. Key areas will also include: meeting quality requirements; compatibility of different diluents; commercial processing developments; storage; and logistics. Initially it will specify growing media for the grower and public trials and subsequently for full scale commercial use.

**Nursery trials**
An extensive 10 year programme of nursery trials will aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of low-peat and peat-free growing media to the horticultural industry. The trials should cover all major types of container-grown nursery stock, including shrubs, trees and other perennials; pot plants and bedding plants; propagation from seeds and cuttings; growing bags; and pot herbs. They will also cover all the main systems used in commercial horticulture, for example cell trays and blocking compost.

The trials will compare green compost based growing media with established peat-based media. Initially both low-peat and peat-free growing media will be included in the trials, but the low-peat formulations should be phased out from the fifth or sixth year. Experimental growing media should be prepared to strict specifications by selected manufacturers working closely with the trial programme, to ensure commercial feasibility of the materials used.

The trial programme should aim to replicate all the major nursery uses for growing media across the main regions of the UK and provide a good range of crops, techniques and climates. Around 30 ongoing, separate trials are envisaged for the duration of Peatering Out. Scrupulous attention to the scientific planning and practical execution of these trials will be essential to ensure consistency and transparency of results and provide a vital resource of demonstration and information to assist growers to make the transition to peat-free growing media. There will also need to be clear routes for feedback to the technical development programme. The trials, especially the early stages of the project, are likely to inform the further fine-tuning of growing media specifications.

**Public Trials**
These trials will inform the gardening public about peat-free growing media. Key sites should be chosen which enjoy special respect and
high visitor numbers, drawn for example from the properties of botanic gardens, the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and Parks Departments.

These public sites would be unlikely to require formal, scientific trials but would rather simply demonstrate the use of low-peat and peat-free growing media. Nonetheless these trials should be carefully managed in conjunction with the nursery trials as an intrinsic element of the Peatering Out programme.

**Intellectual property**

The technical development and trials programmes will generate intellectual property with the potential for commercial application and profit. The rights to this intellectual property will depend to a large extent on whether Peatering Out is funded from commercial or public sources. In the past, much of the work on peat-free growing media has been commercially funded and thus held in commercial confidence. This has undoubtedly hindered the development of peat alternatives. It is also in contrast to the large sums of public money that assisted the development of peat growing media when the horticultural peat industry was in its infancy.

**Communications**

Ongoing communication of all aspects of Peatering Out will be vital to fuelling industry interest in the peat-free programme and achieving the planned phased reduction of peat in the UK. A communications plan should include both media and technical advisory programmes and be aimed at both trade and consumer audiences.

Regular news of progress on technical developments and the trials programmes will be at the heart of Peatering Out’s communications plan. There are however many other areas of news and interest that can maintain and build interest and support for Peatering Out. These include: developments in composting; product manufacturer developments; take-up by commercial growers; progress in reducing peat by DIY multiples and garden centres; endorsement by celebrities and organisations; and peatland wildlife and conservation. A Peatering Out website should cater for both professional and home interest in low-peat and peat-free growing media.

Regional workshops should present the results of the trials and progress on Peatering Out to regional growers, distributors and retailers. These should be held annually, ideally in autumn. Presentations should be considered for the Four Oaks and GLEE national trade shows, for regional trade shows and for key events on the gardening calendar such as the Chelsea Flower Show, BBC Gardeners’ World Live and the Hampton Court Flower Show.
Generating retail interest will be important for encouraging garden centres and the public to choose reduced-peat and peat-free growing media. A national marketing scheme should be implemented to raise the retail profile of Peatering Out and clearly identify both products and retailers which are committed to the scheme.

Growers and retailers will need technical advice and support as they embrace low-peat and peat-free growing media. Peatering Out will need to work closely with the horticultural advisory organisations and key individuals, providing written technical material and on-the-ground advice to advisers, growers, manufacturers and product buyers. Close links will also need to be maintained with the composting industry and advice provided to composting operations.

**Driving the change-over**

The objectives outlined in Peatering Out are unlikely to be met without support from Government. The mainstream growing media industry has largely resisted more than 10 years of peat campaigning by wildlife organisations: 96% of growing media are peat based (1).

Government has already signalled the desirability of moving away from peat-based growing media. Mineral Planning Guidance Note 13 (6) states that ‘Government wishes to continue to encourage the development of alternatives to peat for both the less demanding uses and of more specialised alternatives for more demanding uses.’ MPG13 set a target for 40% replacement of the total market requirements for soil improvers and growing media to be supplied by non-peat material by 2005.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan for lowland raised bogs (2) also prescribes action on peat alternatives. It requires all four UK countries to ‘undertake and promote research and development of sustainable alternatives to peat to speed up reduction of peat used in both amateur and professional markets. Aim for a minimum of 40% of total market requirements to be peat-free by 2005 and 90% by 2010.’

English Nature and the RSPB therefore strongly recommend the Peatering Out plan to the UK Government and Country Assemblies. They should publicly support the aims of Peatering Out and provide policy guidance, legislative backing and resources towards achieving the switch to sustainable, peat-free growing media. This includes effective commitment and support from Government to meet its organic recycling commitments.

English Nature and the RSPB also encourage the gardening industry to make progress on peat alternatives wherever possible. The lead on peat shown by B&Q (7) is a signal that industry can take steps to resolve the peat issue and we encourage other retailers to follow their lead. As well as introducing their own targets for progressive peat dilution, retailers should introduce clear labelling to show the peat content of products. Many users of multi-purpose compost, for
example, are not aware that this is predominately a peat-based product (8).

Nonetheless Government’s role is vital in helping to ensure that green compost and diluent materials will be available in sufficient quantities, and that the required product research is undertaken and publicly available.

**Funding**

*Peatering Out* has a far-reaching objective for gardening and horticulture: to replace the use of peat with more sustainable materials. A foundation of secure funding is important to ensure that activities are carried out with integrity, scientific rigour, expertise and commitment to achieving the objectives, in all areas of the work.

An annual budget in the region of £500,000 (for costs as at 2001) is expected to see *Peatering Out* to fruition. Estimates of the annual cost of the key areas of the programme are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Technical development and trial costs</td>
<td>£85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery trial costs</td>
<td>£210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public trial costs</td>
<td>£26,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£483,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* excludes national marketing scheme

The nursery trial costs at the core of the project are envisaged to continue for the project’s duration. Spending in other areas is likely to shift from technical development to communications work as *Peatering Out* progresses.

It has been estimated that around £100 million has been invested over 30 to 40 years to enable peat-based growing media to dominate the growing media market; and that at least one-third of this has come from the public purse. *Peatering Out* should also be supported by public sector funding. Its key goals are to safeguard rare wildlife habitat by removing the demand for a non-sustainable resource; and to assist the development of a profitable composting industry that will recycle and re-use materials that would otherwise go to landfill. In so doing, *Peatering Out* will ensure that the UK retains jobs in a healthy domestic growing media industry.
References


8. Marketing Compost Products: a research investigation into the preferences and purchasing behaviour of amateur and professional UK gardeners. The RSPB and Recycling Services Ltd, 2001
Appendix 1. Peat replacement in specific retail products

Peat replacement in retail multipurpose ‘compost’

Peat replacement in retail growing bags
Peat replacement in retail hanging baskets

Peat replacement in retail ericaceous compost
Peatering out – towards a sustainable UK growing media industry

Peat replacement in other retail products

'000 cu.m

Year

Appendix 2. Peat replacement in specific professional markets

Peat replacement in bedding plants

Peat replacement in pot plants
Peatering out – towards a sustainable UK growing media industry

Peat replacement in container nursery stock

Peat replacement in vegetable transplants
Peatering out – towards a sustainable UK growing media industry

Peat replacement in growing bags

Peat replacement in mushrooms
Peatering out – towards a sustainable UK growing media industry

Peat replacement in bulbs and flowers
Appendix 3: Potential partners and funding sources

Potential sources of funding and support for Peatering Out as a partnership project include:

1. Public funding
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Department for Trade and Industry; the Northern Ireland Executive; the National Assembly for Wales; the Scottish Executive; EU LIFE Environment Fund, Landfill Tax

2. Wildlife conservation organisations
English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Environment and Heritage Service; the RSPB, the National Trust, the Peatlands Campaign Consortium

3. Gardening and horticulture industry
The Composting Association; the Horticulture Development Council; the Horticultural Trades Association, National Farmers’ Union, the Peat Producers’ Association, DIY retail chains, garden centre retail chains.