



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Ending the sale of peat in the UK

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Importance of Peatlands



Carbon

World's largest
terrestrial carbon store
– locking up 3.2 billion
tonnes in the UK



Nature

Largest extent of semi-natural
habitat and contain rare species:
sundew, golden plover, bittern



Water

Slow flow of water and
mitigate flood risk,
provide 1/4 of all UK's
drinking water



Irreplaceable habitats providing multiple ecosystem services



What is the Government's stance

- Commitment to legislate to end the sale of peat.
- When Parliamentary time allows.
- Contained in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)



Historic – voluntary ban – not delivered

Previous Government – consulted on legislating (Dec 2021)

Good support for a ban

Change of Govt - GE 2024 – before proposals
could be enacted



Phased approach – retail ban initially

Permit use in professional sector – date?

Possibly further technical exemptions – for processes eg propagation or difficult to grow species

Conservation/ scientific exemption



Annual use of peat in the UK – 2021-2023 (cubic metres)

	2021	2022	2023
Peat - Retail	1,020,372	470,691	388,969
Peat - Professional	627,685	455,847	372,510
Peat - Total	1,648,057	926,538	761,479
Alternatives	2,578,780	2,562,800	2,392,353
Growing Media - Total	4,226,837	3,489,338	3,153,832



Peat – Country of origin (2022)

Country	Cubic metres	Percentage
England	50,000	5%
Wales	Nil	Nil
Scotland	170,000	18%
N. Ireland	170,000	18%
Rol	340,000	36%
Other EU	220,000	23%
TOTAL	950,000	100%



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Issues & concerns

Availability/ cost of peat free alternatives

UK internal market

EU trade & EU reset (SPS)

WTO notification



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Non-legislative action

RHS Peat Free Fellowship

Peat Free Roadmaps

RSS & QA standard



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Questions?