



Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

9 September 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing as professional growers, gardeners, nursery owners, compost manufacturers and retailers, plus advocates and supporters of peat-free horticulture to urge you to end years of uncertainty and legislate to end peat sales once and for all.

We are proof that peat is not required for British horticulture to flourish. Between us we grow, buy and sell millions of exceptional quality peat-free plants every single year. With a fair, well-managed and supported transition, there is a bright, successful future ahead for a fully peat-free, proudly sustainable UK horticultural industry.

But legislation is required if this future is to be realised. There have been great strides in reducing peat use. Yet the total amount of peat used for horticulture in 2022 was 950,000m³ – enough to fill 380 Olympic sized swimming pools. This trade continues to destroy irreplaceable peat bogs across the UK and overseas, contrary to legal commitments on climate change and biodiversity.

For a fair, level marketplace, where environmentally damaging peat-grown imports are a thing of the past and home-grown, peat-free horticulture based on a sustainable, circular economy can thrive – legislation is needed. For consumers to buy with confidence, knowing the plants and compost in their trolleys have been produced without contributing to climate change or biodiversity loss – legislation is needed.

To bring an end to the business uncertainty which has plagued the UK's horticultural industry for well over a decade now – legislation is needed. This is a popular and straightforward measure left as unfinished business by the previous government. We call on you to make this a priority for your government's programme and legislate without delay to end the sale of peat.

Yours sincerely,

Growers, suppliers and retailers

Emma Maxwell, **Ash & Elm Market Gardeners**

Julian de Bosdari, **Ashridge Nurseries**
B&Q Ltd

Nick Hamilton, **Barnsdale Gardens**
Becky Wildman, Gardener and nurserywoman

Darren Shipp, **Bedwen Plants**

Sarah Holdsworth, **Bee Happy Plants & Seeds**

Julia Boulton, **Beth Chatto's Plants and Gardens**

Sue Beesley, **Bluebell Cottage Nursery and Gardens**

Jonathan Sheppard, **British Cosmos**
British Wildflower Plants

Brenda Smith, **Bud Garden Centre**

Augusta Lewis, Sustainable Food Places Coordinator, **Bwyd Sir Gâr Food**

Kevin Hughes, **Cally Gardens**

Danièle Muir, **Celtica Wildflowers**
Co-op Supermarkets

Ffin and Steph, **Criw Compostio**

Holly Short and Marcus Wilson, **Kimberly Nurseries**

Derek Taylor, **Kirton Farm**

Neil Lucas, **Knoll Gardens**

Malcolm Allison, **Malcolm Allison Plants**
Melcourt Industries

Anne and Simon Harrap, **Natural Surroundings**

Sam and Liz Frings, **Organic Plant Nursery**

Rob and Joanna Courtney, **Paddock Plants**

Neil, Catherine and Sam Wallsgrove, **Pepperpot Nursery**

Jenny Shukman, **Picts Hill Alpines**

Chris and Ellen Corke, **Prenplants Sussex**

Toby Thomas, **RocketGro Compost**

Rosi Rollings, **Rosybee.com**

Lewis Normand, President, **Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society**

Harry Hoblyn, **Rymer Trees and Hedging**
Seedball

Southwold Succulent Co

Bleddyn & Sue Wynn-Jones, **Crûg Farm Plants**

Sabina Kucz, **Cumbria Wildflowers**

Earthed Up! Limited

Colin Stephens, Managing Director, **Evergreen Garden Care**

Matthew Dent, **Fertile Fibre Compost**

Sean Higgs, **Floralive**

George Davies, **For Peat's Sake!**

Mischa Warnecke, **Forus Tree**

Toni Borella, **Greenup Farm**

Melanie Asker, Managing Director, **Greenwood Plants**

Grow Wilder, Avon Wildlife Trust

Lisa Wesley & Andrew Blackwood, **Growild Nursery**

Steve Hipkin, **Gwynfor Growers**

Nick Mann, **Habitat Aid**

Rosy and Robert Hardy, **Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants**

Harriet Thompson, **Harriet's Plants**

Sarah Wild, **Heeley City Farm**

Jonathan Hogarth, **Hogarth Hostas**

Dr Harry Watkins, Executive Director, and Beccy Middleton, Curator, **St Andrews Botanic Garden Trust**

Billy Stott, **Stotts Nursery**

Dawn Yeardsley, **Sunnyview Flowers**

Alison Tindale, **The Backyard Larder**

Jenny Rafferty and Frantisek Zika, **The Humble Bee Gardeners**

Claire Brodie, **The Little Green Plant Factory**

Tim Fuller, **The Plantsman's Preference**

Lindsey Jones, **The Wildflower Nursery**

Avery Rowe, **Tradescantia Hub**

Mark Wash, **Trecanna Nursery**

Henry White, **Trevor White Roses**

Helen Warrington, **Ty Cym Nursery**

Roisin Taylor, **Verde Flower Co.**

Peter Manfield, **Village Nurseries**

Vitacress Ltd

Anna Robinson, **Water Garden Plants**

What the Fungus

Mandy Barber, **Incredible Vegetables**

Jane Cureton, **Jemima's Garden**

Individual supporters

Professor Andy Baird, University of Leeds

Chris Beardshaw, Award-winning garden designer, TV presenter

Alys Fowler, Garden writer and former BBC Gardeners' World presenter

Professor Dave Goulson, University of Sussex

Stephanie Hafferty, Organic gardener, writer and consultant

Leigh Johnstone (aka The Beardy Gardener)

Richard Lindsay, University of East London

Beth Otway, Horticulturist and garden writer

Chris Packham, TV Broadcaster and Environmental Campaigner

Jake Rayson, Wildlife and food forest garden designer

Becky Searle, Environmental Journalist

Guy Shrubsole, campaigner and author of *The Lost Rainforests of Britain* and *The Lie of the Land*

Jack Wallington, Garden designer and writer

Supporting organisations

Buglife

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Butterfly Conservation

Campaign for National Parks

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)

CPRE, the countryside charity

Decarbonize Ltd

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Food Matters International Ltd

For Peat's Sake

Garden Organic

Peat Free April

Plantlife

Royal Horticultural Society

Sizzle

Soil Association

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Sustain Alliance

The National Trust

The Wildlife Trusts

Wildlife & Countryside Link



Friends of the Earth