



Re: Public Consultation on the LEAF Marque Standard Version 17.0 Draft

Soil and Substrate Management

Do you think the changes to the control points in this section are appropriate?

No

Do you have any comments on the feasibility, relevance or auditability of these Control Points, or any further thoughts? Please state them here:

Control Point 2.8 states that “Peat-free growing medium is considered by the business”. This is an insufficient measure to protect our peatlands and unsustainable in practice. This Control Point needs to be considerably stricter than it currently stands. Verification point A requires that peat-free compost is “considered” as a growing media. However, this Control Point should enforce active movement towards peat-free media. The stipulation that consideration of peat-free compost is based on national and local regulations does not ensure that the move towards peat-free is appropriately considered and planned for, because the existing regulations fall short in the aim to eliminate peat use in horticulture. Additionally, this Control Point is only an “Advanced I” requirement, meaning that not all organisations have to meet this point to obtain a LEAF Marque certification. Having a clearly indicated timeline of plans to go peat-free should be a basic requirement for businesses which still use peat yet expect to achieve LEAF Marque status. We encourage you to alter this Control Point to be a Core requirement and to require businesses either are 100% peat-free or have a clear timeline and outline for how and when they will become peat-free.