



CASTLE | BRISMORE | POUNDBURY

# Our Peat Policy

*In line with our commitment to the environment*

## **What the Government says**

The Government has decided that the use of peat in horticulture should be phased out completely by 2020. This target date has been slipping for years but has finally been implemented. The reason for this is that the extraction of peat releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

## **The Gardens Group as a whole is committed to achieving that target**

### **Peat based composts**

Peat is an excellent basis for quality composts. However, the techniques for growing in peat free composts are not the same as for peat based composts. So to change overnight from peat based composts to peat free composts would alienate many gardeners having perhaps a greater detrimental impact on the environment.

### **We're working towards the target**

We have over recent years been reducing the peat content in our own brand of multi-purpose compost. This is now up to a level of 40% peat free using wood pulp as an alternative. We use this compost in our own nursery and have had excellent results. Customers who have switched to our multi-purpose compost have reported excellent results too.

Our aim is to continue the process gradually taking customers with us with support and advice where it is required. We will trial all products in our nursery and the results will be seen in the crops that we have available for sale.

### **Peat free composts**

We also stock a number of totally peat free potting composts and grow bags.

We believe that soil improvers and mulches do not need to be peat based and have a number of such products available.

*For a more detailed discussion please see our website [www.thegardeneronline.co.uk](http://www.thegardeneronline.co.uk) and if you have any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us – we'd like to share any great ideas with other gardeners.*