



GARDENERS CALL FOR MANUFACTURERS, GARDEN RETAILERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TACKLE GROWING PLASTIC PROBLEM

PLASTIC PLANTS POTS IDENTIFIED AS BIGGEST ISSUE

A survey by **BBC Gardeners' World magazine** has revealed the overwhelming majority of gardeners think the amount of plastic used in gardening is a problem and believe it is the responsibility of manufacturers and retailers to address the issue.

The poll, conducted by BBC Gardeners' World magazine of their readers to explore attitudes towards plastic use in gardening, revealed that **75% of respondents think the amount of plastic used in gardening is a problem**, with plastic plant pots identified as the worst offender (55%).

Whilst 41% of those surveyed acknowledge a personal responsibility in reducing the amount of plastic used, they primarily see it as the responsibility of manufacturers and retailers to tackle the problem:

Whose responsibility is it to reduce the use of plastic in gardening?

- **Manufacturers/growers** **70%**
- **Retailers** **59%**
- **Gardeners** **41%**

83% of those surveyed said they are trying to use less plastic in the garden and 73% said they would be willing to pay more to reduce the use of plastic in gardening products.

And when it comes to recycling the unwanted plastic, respondents felt local authorities and retailers should take the lead:

Who should provide recycling facilities?

- **Local councils** **77%**
- **Retailers** **53%**
- **National government** **23%**

Lucy Hall, BBC Gardeners' World magazine editor, says: "Most gardeners are hugely aware – and proud – of the environmental good that gardening can deliver, but are realising that some gardening activities we take for granted come at a cost. Most plants are sold in plastic and, so far, the alternative options have proven too expensive or impractical on a large scale. But the willingness of nearly three-quarters of respondents to pay more in future to cut plastic waste is a sign of how serious this issue has become to the nation's millions of gardeners."

In the latest issue of BBC Gardeners' World magazine, **Monty Don** also highlights as black plastic plant pots as the biggest plastic issue facing gardeners; as while they are made of 80% recyclable materials, due to their colour they cannot be recycled and "the plastic mountain has become an Everest".

The November issue of BBC Gardeners' World Magazine is on-sale now, priced £4.99, with an update from Monty on how he is reducing his use of plastics, the results of the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine's Garden of the Year award and tips on how to protect hibernators this autumn.

The poll of 1,019 BBC Gardeners' World Magazine readers was conducted by Immediate Media in October 2018.

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Plastic use in the garden full results:

When using plastic in the garden, what is the biggest problem?

- Plant pots 55%
- Mail Order packaging 16%
- Seed trays 16%
- Furniture 1%
- Containers/window boxes 1%

How much would you be prepared to pay per year to reduce your plastic waste?

- Nothing 27%
- Up to £10 29%
- £11-20 22%
- £21-50 17%
- £51-100 3%
- More than £100 2%

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