

For HTA members only - please do not recirculate



**Public Affairs & Policy Team**  
**Peat Town Hall for HTA Members**  
**18 December 2023**

[www.hta.org.uk/peat](http://www.hta.org.uk/peat)  
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# Recent news and actions

- **Voice and influence** – Party Conferences, HTA Conference, Lords Committee, Efra Committee, Scotland, International.
- **Borders & trade** – BTOM and Windsor Framework
- **Growing media: Life beyond Peat** – Policy & political engagement, Technical workshops & support, Communications/Media, Data



**Growing Media**  
*Life beyond peat*

# England & Wales Update

- No legislation in the King's Speech, possible but unlikely Private Members Bill
- Welsh officials have heard concerns
- Ministerial responsibility changes
- Impact assessment in completion & will be published
- Ongoing engagement with Defra Policy Team incl. on 'support' needs and 2024



# Scottish Government Policy

- Publication of consultation response imminent
- HTA have met with Cabinet Minister and Spad
- Bill for a peat ban likely in 2024
- Advised focus would be on amateur market and would engage industry
- Cab Sec wrote to Defra SoS with key HTA message
- Scot Peat Minister to visit HTA member





# Technical Support

## **Supporting the industry transition to peat-free growing media**

Three basic elements -

- HTA technical webpages
- HTA workshops and meetings
- Involvement in R&D, including the 5-year RHS Peat-Free Fellowship

# Technical Support

## HTA technical webpages

<https://hta.org.uk/grower-support-campaign/growing-media>

This section provides guidance and technical information to assist with the transition to peat-free growing media. Most businesses are still on a learning curve in terms of adopting such media, and are in the process of trialling a range of growing media blends and making the necessary cultural changes to get the most out of them.



GROWING MEDIA

**Tips for going peat-free**

[Find out more >](#)



GROWING MEDIA

**Physical constituents of peat-free media**

[Find out more >](#)



GROWING MEDIA

**Irrigation of peat-free crops**

[Find out more >](#)



GROWING MEDIA

**Nutrition of peat-free crops**

[Find out more >](#)



GROWING ME

**Monitorir  
peat-free**

[Find out moi](#)

# Technical support

## HTA grower technical workshops

<https://hta.org.uk/develop-your-business/grower-support-campaign/get-involved/grower-technical-workshops>

### Nutrient and Water Management in Peat-Free Substrates Workshop

- ✿ Types of substrate raw materials and common blends
- ✿ Back to basics with plant nutrition
- ✿ Nutrient monitoring and planning
- ✿ Matching irrigation need to blend
- ✿ Tools and equipment

[View more here](#)



### Propagation in Peat-Free Substrates Workshop

- ✿ Physical properties of peat-free substrates
- ✿ The substrate and the container
- ✿ Impact of bottom heat
- ✿ Micronutrients and propagation
- ✿ Water quality in propagation

[View more here](#)



# Technical Support

## Meetings (HTA Nursery Network Group)

<https://hta.org.uk/develop-your-business/grower-support-campaign/get-involved/nuturing-your-growing-needs/hta-nursery-network>

### **'Commercial peat-free media adoption in hardy nursery stock production'**

*Debate and discussion around the move to peat-free plant production has been ongoing for many years within the industry, but has recently become more focused with the announcement, by Defra, of the requirement for peat-free professional plant production by the end of 2026. This will impact not only the on-site production of plants, but also the sourcing of plants from overseas, which must be peat-free too. Delegates heard about the political background surrounding the transition to peat-free, the efforts undertaken by growing media manufacturers to create new products, the trials and transition undertaken at Hillier Nurseries and the new RHS Fellowship to support the industry in its move away from peat.*



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# Technical Support

## RHS Peat-Free Fellowship

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/peat-free-workshops/november-2023-conference-resources>



# Technical Support

## *What's happening next -*

- Webpage on the impact of peat-free growing media on machinery and nursery procedures currently being designed, more to follow....
- Next Nursery Network meeting planned to be at Melcourt production facilities in February
- HTA workshop programme being finalised for 2024
- Output from RHS Fellowship being planned for 2024

**You are more than welcome to join in**

# Impact Assessment, Data & Insights



- Defra Impact Assessment work
- HTA survey work & European data outreach

# What next?

- Publication of Impact Assessment
- Scotland-Westminster engagement/response?
- Government response on House of Lords Horticulture Inquiry
- Member feedback, insights, case studies, etc



# Thank you & discussion

- Views, comments and input
- Sharing intelligence / insights
- Questions?

Further info: [hta.org.uk/peat](http://hta.org.uk/peat)  
[policy@hta.org.uk](mailto:policy@hta.org.uk)