

Establishment of crops in peat-free growing media – grower and scientific viewpoints

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Nursery History

- 61 years of container-crop growing.
- Suppling garden centres throughout the whole of the UK.
- Wide range of plants produced.
- Darby Speciality Crops include Lavandula, Clematis and soft fruit.

Growing Medium History

- Trialling and growing batches in peat free for 30+ years.
- 2024, 40% of all potting will be in peat-free growing media.
- Standard mixes are 60% peat-reduced.
- Coir, woodfibre and bark.

Current Mixes

Mix number (ICL)	Mix number (DNS)	Mix description (2024)
TRPF04024	Mix 4024	Tree PF standard 35% F/A
TRPF04025	Mix 4025	Trees PF Standard 40% F/A
TRPF04026	Mix 4026	Trees Cherry/Prunus
TRPF04027	Mix 4027	Trees Apple/Malus
NSPF04092	Mix 4092	2-3 L Outdoor PF
NSPF04093	Mix 4093	2-3 L Indoor PF
NSPF04141	Mix 4141	Young Plants Long Term PF Fine
NSPF04142	Mix 4142	Young Plants Short term PF
HRGE04201	Mix 4201	Herbaceous 60% F/A
NSGE04532	Mix 4532	Vinca 50% F/A
NSGE04570	Mix 4570	N Stock Indoor 60% F/A
NSGE04571	Mix 4571	N Stock Outdoor 60% F/A
NSGE04601	Mix 4601	N Stock disease control 60% F/A

2024 Peat-Free Trial (Outside)



2024 Peat-Free Trial (Inside)



Poor Establishment



Differences Between Peat-Based and Peat-Free

- Water holding capacity.



Priming Input Material



Irrigation Controls



Checking Profile



Differences Between Peat-Based and Peat-Free

- Nutrition.



Differences Between Peat-Based and Peat-Free

- Physical structure.



Physical Structure



Future Considerations

