



## Top five reasons why we don't dig peat

### **ONE. It has a great big muddy carbon footprint**

Peat extraction has some very dirty environmental credentials. The equivalent of over 24 million wheelbarrows of peat is extracted from peat bogs, emitting 400,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year purely for our gardening pleasure.

### **TWO. When it's gone, it's gone**

Like oil, peat is a non-renewable resource (at least not in our lifetime), so if we continue to plunder our bogs, we'll have to wait around a further 10,000 years if we want anymore of it! According to Defra, England already has just 1% of its original pristine peat habitat left, whilst intact peat bogs are one of Europe's most rare and threatened habitats.

### **THREE. It costs us more to dig it up**

A staggering 69% of all peat used is by amateur gardeners like you and me. We buy it in plants, bags of compost, and soil improvers. A bag of multi-purpose compost might only be worth £2.99 to you, but once we've all bought a bag, the carbon cost to our environment amounts to an estimated net loss of £1.2 million – that's not clever economics!

### **FOUR. We don't want our wildlife homeless and extinct**

If we want fresh food on our plates, clean air to breathe and picturesque places to visit, then we need biodiversity. Unfortunately biodiversity – the birds, the bees, and flowers – needs a place to live. With the UK already seeing a 90% loss of blanket bogs and a 98% loss of raised bogs, these habitats are now no-go areas for rare plants and wildlife that live only on our precious peatlands. And all because of a product that us gardeners don't need to use!

### **FIVE. Our gardens grow without it!**

Amateur gardeners have been using peat out of habit for years, but successful results gained by organic gardeners, as well as organisations like the National Trust, Kew Gardens and the Prince of Wales' estates, shows that we can still grow lovely plants, sow tasty veg and admire a lush lawn without pillaging our peatlands! These efforts to phase out peat have helped annual UK peat usage to drop from 3.5 million to 3 million cubic metres over the past 10 years – but there's still a long way to go.