

Dear Store Manager,

I've noticed that you don't stock peat free compost. Nor are your plants grown in a peat free medium.

This doesn't have to be. Several large garden centre chains have committed to reducing or even banishing peat. As have a number of large growing suppliers.

I'm one of your many customers who wants to go peat free.

Taking peat out of the ground is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Peat is the largest and most efficient land-based store of carbon, and the world's second largest carbon store after the oceans. Peat bogs store on average 10 times more carbon per hectare than any other ecosystem, including forests.¹

Cutting peat also destroys a unique habitat which we cannot restore in our lifetime, nor our children's, grandchildren's or great grandchildren's. It takes over 1,000 years to restore a peat bog. And over 95% of the UK's bogs are now destroyed or degraded.

Please do your bit to help the environmental crisis we are facing. Stock peat free composts for your customers. We know they can be more expensive, but gardeners like myself are happy to pay for a good product, which doesn't harm the planet. And please investigate trade suppliers who grow in peat free medium.

As a customer, I know I can shop elsewhere if you don't stock peat free.

You can find out more about Garden Organic's 'For Peat's Sake' campaign by visiting their website www.forpeatssake.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

¹ UN Environment Report 2011