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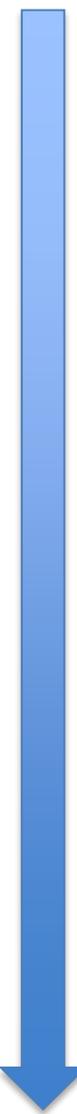
Lessons learned from phase-outs – the case of peat in the United Kingdom.

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History of peat use in the UK



1930s - 'John Innes' potting mixes were developed

1940s - ready mixed growing media containing peat became available to purchase

1950s - raising containerised plants on a large scale began

1970s - high peat content 'lightweight' mixes went on sale

- increased mining of peat, particularly in N. and SW. England, and Ireland

- the rise of the 'garden centre' led to increased sales of both container plants and peat-based growing media

2010s - increasing concern about the sustainability of peat as growing media and the beginnings of phase-out...

Current situation:

- limited availability of peat-free brands in garden centres
- unclear/misleading/inconsistent labelling
- peat continues to be mined and imported
- low public awareness



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION:

At Scotts we are justly proud of our environmental record and our concern for the environment, both at our production facilities and in your garden. With this in mind we continue to develop outstanding, consistent growing media using a range of peat based, reduced peat and peat free ingredients, many of which make use of otherwise waste material. This product has been categorised as the following:

ZERO PEAT	LOW PEAT	REDUCED PEAT	HIGH PEAT
0%	approx 40% - 60%	approx 60% - 90% ✓	over 90%

Over the last decade we have significantly reduced the proportion of peat we use in our composts and will continue to do so. We do not harvest any peat from SSSI or SAC sites and are actively involved in helping the management and restoration of the peat land areas that we harvest from.

As we continue to work towards reduced peat formulations we are continually introducing new materials into our products. This may mean that you notice a difference in the appearance of your compost from year to year. Rest assured, any changes to our formulas are rigorously tested so we can guarantee the product you are using is

SUITABLE FOR ORGANIC FARMING



More positively:

- several peat-free brands available direct from supplier, including some with organic certification
- better quality peat-free growing media that perform consistently
- more nurseries, commercial growers and visitor attractions are becoming peat-free
- gardener-driven '#peatfree' social media campaign



Nicky Kyle Gardening @nickykylegarden · Oct 17
 Purple-podded mangetout pea 'Shiraz' flowering in #polytunnel now! Sown mid-July - we'll have a small but welcome crop in a couple of weeks to eat raw in salads & stir-fries. Crunchy & delicious, Shiraz is high in #polyphenol antioxidants.
 ♥️#Organic #peatfree #healthy #realfood



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Dalefoot Composts @DalefootCompost · Oct 25
 Delighted to announce three NEW Dalefoot stockists - @StamfordGdnCntr in Lincs, Hartleys in Glossop, Derbyshire & Trevenson Moor in Tehidy, Cornwall
 #peatfree



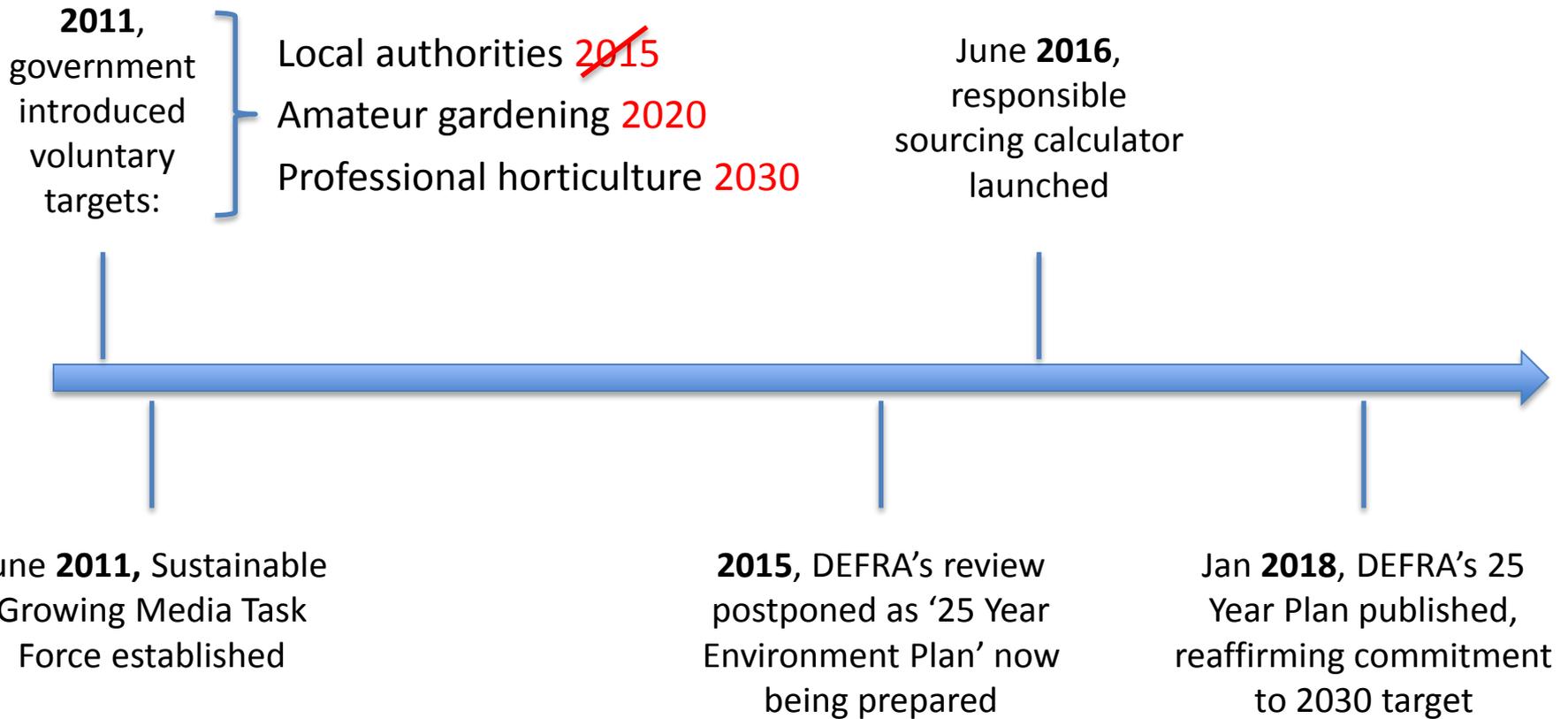
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Boultons Nurseries @hortech_wn · 22h
 Potting in full swing, greenhouses filling up. Plenty of peat-free plants available.
 #peatfree #Moddershall #Staffordshire #NationalTrust



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Steps to phase-out



The responsible sourcing calculator

The promise

All growing media are made from materials that are sourced and manufactured in a way that is both socially and environmentally responsible.

	In scope	Out of scope
Life cycle stages (Stage in process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extraction/growing and harvest ✓ Transport to manufacturer ✓ Processing and Production ✓ Up to the point of being mixed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Bagging (including packaging) ✗ Transport from manufacturer to consumer ✗ Use/disposal by consumer
Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bulk ingredients that contribute to the final volume and provide physical structure (>5% by volume) ✓ Organic and inorganic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Additives (e.g. fertilisers, wetting agents, lime)
Climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Energy use ✓ Carbon turnover and cycling with the atmosphere ✓ Land use change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Direct calculation of greenhouse gas emissions ✗ Carbon sinks
Sustainability pillars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environmental ✓ Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Economic

The promise is a pragmatic compromise, balancing the need for detail relating to the detrimental environmental and social effects of sourcing and manufacturing growing media materials with the need to design a relatively simple and workable scheme.

Seven criteria have been selected to assess growing media:

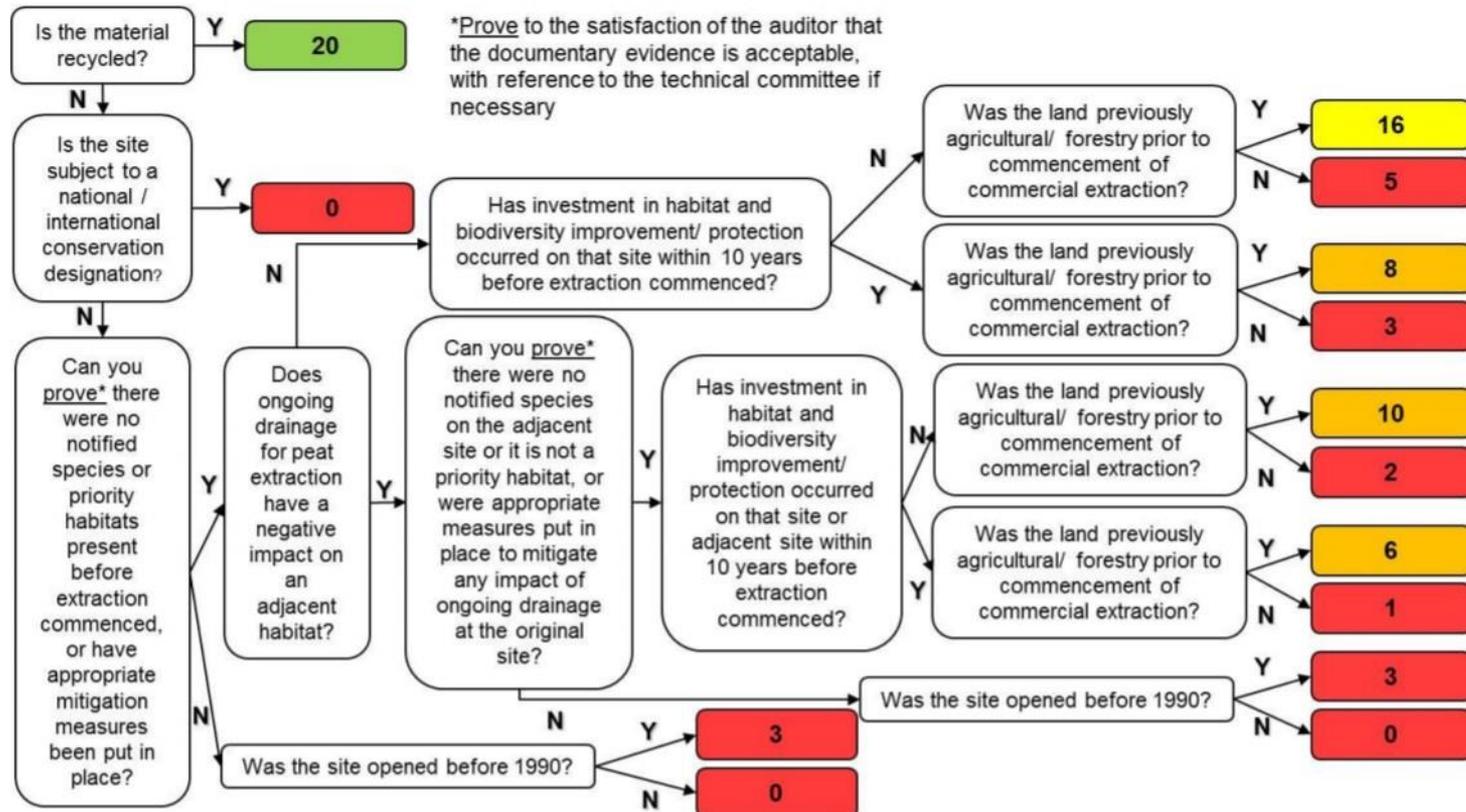
- Energy use (in extraction, transport and production)
- Water use (in extraction and production)
- Social compliance
- Habitat and biodiversity (the assessment for this varies by class of material)
Materials which do not fit one of the existing methods of assessment will need to be referred to the technical committee.
- Pollution
- Renewability
- Resource use efficiency



Habitat and biodiversity – how does peat score?

Peat

The following scoring decision tree (Figure 10) is an interim position and will be subject to a redesign over the next 12 months. This tree should continue to be used in the meantime. The table at the bottom of the tree is used to modify the score. Further details are given below.



Breakdown of a growing media product by the materials it contains:

Product 1: Multi-purpose compost produced by Company 1

Product 1, a multi-purpose compost produced by Company 1 (using only the previous worked examples) is 50% Material 1 (wood fibre), 30% Material 2 (coir pith) and 20% Material 3 (green compost).

Criteria	Material 1 Score	Material 2 Score	Material 3 Score	Product 1 calculation	Product 1 Score
Energy	6	12	14	$6*0.5 + 12*0.3 + 14*0.2$	9.4
Water	16	6	20	$16*0.5 + 6*0.3 + 20*0.2$	13.8
Social compliance	5	13	5	$5*0.5 + 13*0.3 + 5*0.2$	7.4
Habitat and biodiversity	13	12	20	$13*0.5 + 12*0.3 + 20*0.2$	14.1
Pollution	12	8	12	$12*0.5 + 8*0.3 + 12*0.2$	10.8
Renewability	17	20	20	$17*0.5 + 20*0.3 + 20*0.2$	18.5
Resource use efficiency	15	15	6	$15*0.5 + 15*0.3 + 6*0.2$	13.2

Calculator pros and cons

Pros

- robust approach to those aspects which are 'in scope'
- scrutinises the sustainability of all growing media
- DEFRA is very supportive
- Involvement of industry makes them part of the solution

Cons

- some major aspects are 'out of scope'. EG, the use of plastic bags and added fertilisers
- does not account for the carbon sequestered by peat
- Involvement of industry – what if the industry is not convinced that peat should be completely phased out?



Questions, uncertainties and lessons to be learned



- will the industry argue that some ongoing level of peat use is acceptable?
- what will DEFRA say if the calculator does not ultimately lead to peat phase-out in line with the targets?
- the final scoring of the calculator is still uncertain. Will one red score for a material equate to an overall score of 'unsustainable'?
- what will DEFRA deem to be sufficient progress against the 2020 amateur use phase-out target?
- what further measures could be introduced if progress is not sufficient?
- is a voluntary approach the best and what if the UK government were to introduce legislation?
- should manufacturers be required to list the ingredients of bags of growing media? (as food producers are legally required to do)
- more development of alternatives is still needed and the Horizon 2020's funding is an important investment to make the phase-out EU wide
- it's not straightforward...

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Thank you – any questions?

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