



RHS policy on peat

2025 update

Definitions and concessions to support the RHS peat-free policies covering 2025 onwards.

Our policy only covers the plants you exhibit or sell through the RHS.



No new peat plants

Plants grown entirely peat free or older plants containing peat extracted before 31 December 2025

Peat starter plants

Plants which started their life in peat (as a plug plant or liner) but have since been grown peat-free.

Peat plants

Plants grown in peat or peat-reduced media since 31 December 2025.

Legacy peat policy

Legacy peat covers any peat that is already in the production system up to 31/12/25. Plants containing no peat at all or only legacy peat are 'no new peat plants'.

Policy for RHS Shows from 2026

At RHS Flower Shows all Show Gardens, Judged Floral Displays, Exhibits and Trade Stands will be 'No New Peat Plants' from 2026

A concession has been made to allow nurseries to sell 'Peat Starter Plants' at all RHS Shows. This concession will be in place to the end of 2028 and we expect nurseries to confirm that they have transition plans in place.

Awards

Only exhibitors using entirely 'no new peat plants' will be eligible for the RHS President's Award.

Sale of small pots containing peat

Some exhibitors sell small plants that have not been potted on since propagation. If they have not been grown peat-free but have been propagated and grown on before 31st Dec 2025 they would qualify as no new peat plants and can be sold.

Declaration

From 2026, you will be asked to declare that your plants, both those to be judged and those to be sold, comply with our peat-free policies.

Exhibitor selection

- Your peat-free status will become the first part of the exhibitor selection process.
- Peat-free questions on the application form will be mandatory.
- Your peat-free status will be logged onto our database with dates and details.
- Your peat-free progress will be monitored via our database.
- Checks on peat-free will become part of the sales table regulation checks at all RHS Shows.
- Visits will take place to nurseries throughout the year offering support and advice.
- Attendance at peat-free workshops and seminars throughout the year will be recorded.

Shows at RHS Gardens

The same policy with exemptions for young or starter plants being sold will apply to all RHS Flower Shows, including the RHS Garden Flower Shows:

www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events

Applications to all 2026 RHS Flower Shows will go live by 8th August 2025. Please follow this link to apply:

www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/exhibit-at-a-show/floral-plant-exhibit-applications

Help and resources on going peat-free

Visit the RHS peat-free hub, the growers section has helpful information such as free events, presentations from past workshops, case studies and trial guides.

www.rhs.org.uk/peat

If you have any questions get in touch -

PeatFree@RHS.org.uk

Please note that the policies for RHS Gardens and RHS Retail differ to Shows, with their own timeframes and exemptions.