



## **Transitional rules and guidance for RHS show exhibitors and plant sales at RHS shows**

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

The RHS's policy is to transition to entirely peat-free growing across all operations. The following guidance relates specifically to exhibitors and plant sales at RHS shows based around the definitions and policy formulated in 2025, and feedback during the current Shows season. A working group of exhibitors and RHS staff is intended to help and support the policy and transitional arrangements through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2028 and as a forum to review progress and discuss challenges and solutions through this period. During the transitional period, the RHS Shows Team will also work closely with each exhibitor to check progress, with the aim of ensuring and supporting all exhibitors.

### **Definitions**

No New Peat Plants – plants grown entirely peat free or older plants containing peat extracted before 31 December 2025 (note \*)

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 – grown in peat since 31 December 2025

### **Policy**

At RHS Flower Shows all Show Gardens, Judged Floral Displays, Exhibits and Trade Stands will be 'No New Peat Plants' (e.g. 100% Peat Free plants or plants grown in peat extracted prior to 31 December 2025)

To support the transitional timelines, concessions will be allowed for approved nurseries (those that have successful applications) to sell 'Peat Starter Plants' at all RHS Shows. This transitional support will be in place to the end of 2028 and we expect nurseries to confirm that they have transition plans in place (note\*\*).

### **Guidance**

From the 1 January 2026 only peat-free growing media may be used:

- To pot on existing plants used for show exhibits
- To pot up plants for sale

The 'no new peat plants' policy does allow the sale of plants that have been potted into peat-containing growing media before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

You may during the period to December 2028:



- Purchase starter peat plants grown in peat or reduced peat, provided these are potted up into compost containing no new peat i.e. no new peat plants. These can be used for all plants offered for sale.
- To clarify, peat starter plants include small plugs through to liners. This provides for the continued supply of starter plants for larger items such shrubs and trees. We would be happy to clarify any queries over sizes through the working group.
- The survey highlighted some specific challenges on the supply of peat-free growing media this season. We would look to help nurseries through any short-term issues such as this and please get in contact to discuss how we can support you.

#### **Sale of small pots containing peat**

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

#### *Notes*

*\* from an environmental perspective the 31 Dec 2025 is the date intended to mark the point that no newly harvested peat comes into the RHS operations within growing media with the exception of peat starter plants.*

*\*\* from the survey we understand the potential issue of peat-free plugs not being available for some PBR plants in the future. This will be kept under review through the working group.*