



Advice Sheet No 1

Using Peat Free Compost

Peat-free compost is a sustainable and environmentally friendly choice as it helps reduce the demand for peat extraction, a valuable natural resource. Here are some tips and advice on using peat-free compost effectively:

1. Understand the composition of the compost

Peat-free composts are typically made from a mix of materials such as coir (coconut husk), bark, wood fibre, green waste, and other organic matter. Familiarise yourself with the specific composition of the product you choose.

2. Nutrient content

Check the nutrient content of the peat-free compost. Some may have added fertilisers, while others might be lower in nutrients. Consider supplementing with organic fertilisers if needed.

3. Water retention and drainage

Peat-free composts can vary in their water retention and drainage properties. Adjust your watering routine accordingly. Some may require more frequent watering, while others may retain moisture well.

4. pH levels

Test the pH levels of the peat-free compost. Some composts may be slightly acidic or alkaline. Adjust the pH as needed for the specific plants you are growing.

5. Mixing with other soil amendments

Blend peat-free compost with other soil amendments like well-rotted manure, perlite, or vermiculite to improve its structure, aeration, and water retention.

6. Container gardening

Peat-free compost is suitable for container gardening. Ensure the containers have proper drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.

7. Mulching

Use peat-free compost as a mulch to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and provide nutrients to the soil.

8. Choose the right product for your plants

Different plants have varying soil requirements. Some may thrive in a peat-free mix, while others may prefer a specific type of soil. Research the needs of your plants and choose the right compost accordingly.

9. Consistent moisture

Maintain consistent moisture levels in the peat-free compost. Avoid letting it dry out completely or becoming waterlogged.

10. Support sustainable practices

Choose peat-free composts from reputable manufacturers who prioritise sustainable sourcing and production practices.

11. Monitor plant health

Keep an eye on the health of your plants. If you notice any issues, such as nutrient deficiencies or water-related issues, adjust your gardening practices accordingly.

By following these tips, you can make the most of peat-free compost and support sustainable gardening practices.

Disclaimer: *The information contained in this Advice Sheet is provided in good faith. The Holmer Green Village Produce Association, its officers and servants, accept no responsibility for the use made of the information.*