

Eco-tip for March 2024

The days are starting to get warmer and longer and many of you will be turning your attention to the garden and thinking about setting seeds ready for planting out later in the spring.

For all keen gardeners and those who are just starting out or with just a window box, our **Eco-tip for March is another challenge. Please go peat-free in your garden.**

If you are buying compost in bags, potted plants or young shop-bought seedlings then make sure they are all peat-free. Check the labels, read the small print and ask the garden centre manager or purveyor why they aren't selling peat-free products.

Peat plays a vital role in our eco-system by trapping carbon, controlling flooding and providing a unique habitat for wildlife. It is a finite resource and is a carbon sink, trapping and holding carbon in the ground. When it is dug up it releases all that carbon back into the atmosphere adding to air pollution in just the same way as fossil fuels. Not only that but it destroys a unique and valuable eco-system which cannot be replaced with re-generation schemes. Once it's gone, it's gone.

Many of you are already aware of this and probably have been gardening peat-free for years but, **share this with friends and family and make more people aware.**

Some peat-free composts can be of poorer quality. Eco Tips can recommend Melcourt SylvaGrow Multi-purpose, which is sold by Histon Plants on Bell Hill (and tested in their own nursery). "Exceptionally good" (Sue Free) – <https://melcourt.co.uk/products/sylvagrow-multi-purpose/> - other products will be available at other venues.....

Here are just a couple of links on why going peat free is so important...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09hv04c>

<https://plantgrow.co.uk/why-responsible-gardeners-should-go-peat-free/#:~:text=Peatlands%20are%20the%20largest%20natural,carbon%20dioxide%20into%20the%20atmosphere.>