

Tracking peat usage in growing media production – method statement

Data on the volume and composition of growing media supplied to the UK amateur and professional use horticultural markets was collected by means of a self-completion form. The form was administered to 30 growing media manufacturers which account for the majority of UK growing media supply, and 27 forms were completed for each year. The same 27 producers provided returns for both 2011 and 2012. Data will be collected for 2013 in 2014 and for 2014 in 2015.

The survey was commissioned and jointly funded by Defra¹, the Horticultural Development Company (HDC) and the Growing Media Association (a specialist group of the Horticultural Trades Association). An independent consultant (Paul Waller Consulting) was engaged to ensure the confidentiality of information collected. Data was provided by growing media producers on a confidential basis.

Datasheets for 2011 and 2012 are published here. A full report of the 2011 and 2012 monitoring (Project code CP100) is available on the HDC website (<http://www.hdc.org.uk/>).

Previous work has been conducted by Defra to monitor the composition of growing media. Differences in sampling and methodology mean that data are not directly comparable. The main difference is that green compost manufacturers are no longer included in the survey. Data was sought from 191 green compost producers (249 sites) in the 2009 survey.

The 2009 data on the volume and composition of growing media was compiled under Defra project SP08020. Earlier data (2005 and 2007) was compiled in project WC04019. These reports can be found at: <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/>

¹ Defra is funding the collection of this data to underpin the policy on sustainable growing media as set out in the Natural Environment White Paper. Further details are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-the-food-and-farming-industry-more-competitive-while-protecting-the-environment/supporting-pages/horticultural-peat>