

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 28 January 2020 16:34
To: peatinhorticulturereview
Subject: Public consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Green Category

Hello,
Please find hereafter my answers to the questions for public consultation on the use of peat in horticulture.
Is it fine to communicate them per email?
Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

A. What are your views on what more could be done to support and enable the switch to peat free horticulture at professional crop production level and consumer level?

Use of compost and production of high quality compost, and sensitization. I understand from your report that the quality of compost (as a replacement for peat) can be less homogeneous and it can be less handy a substrate to use, but great lord, peatlands are storing more CO2 than any other vegetation on the planet, and Ireland has a huge responsibility towards the rest of the world on that matter.

B. What are your views on alternatives to the use of peat in the Horticultural Industry (from, for example, the perspective of the professional grower or consumer/amateur gardener)?
I am a biologist.

C. What are your views on whether Ireland should cut back or cease the export of peat for use outside of Ireland even if this would result in job losses in Ireland?
Ireland should cut back on the exploitation of peat and invest in renewable energies and strategies. I believe Ireland does have the capacity to create more job, only in other sectors.

D. Do you consider that a working group should be established to advise on how best to overcome the barriers to reducing peat use in professional horticultural crop production and in the amateur horticultural market?
Yes. But mainly, I think action should be taken.

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F. How do you think that those involved in harvesting peat for horticulture could be compensated for any loss arising from a cessation of this activity (for example, on the basis of the profit loss arising or related to the value in ecosystem services retained/provided)?
Their professional reconvention should be supported efficiently.

H. What do you consider the value of peatlands to be to (please score out of 100):
carbon storage 40
nature conservation 30
the provision of ecosystem services 20

the economy 5
social and cultural needs. 5

100

I. In your opinion should the use of peat within (i) the amateur horticultural market and (ii) the professional horticultural industry be phased out over the next 3, 5, 10, 15 or 20 years and if so, how should this be done bearing in mind the potential job losses and the difficulties with alternative growing media?

i) no

ii) no


I favour the use of other substrates.

J. Does more need to be done to educate and build consumer awareness of peat free products which are available at retail level?

Yes. I understand that we may be used to the use of peat in many aspects of our lives (I will take the retail level as targeting any consumer, not only people depending from peat exploitation professionally). I understand for instant that the smell of a peat fire is linked to a pleasant, homecoming feeling, linked to being warm on a winter day or along the holidays. But many of our habits or nice, pleasant feelings are currently destroying the planet, and this has to change. There is no justification for peat still to be exploited in 2020. Many countries have stopped, and Ireland should as well. People may be used to peat, and attached to peat. But if they value their planet as well, then they should be aware that their behaviours have unsustainable consequences.

Many thanks,

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