

Florists can source peat free growing media by checking every ingredient, matching the mix to the plants they handle and trialling a small amount before ordering more. This helps reduce demand for peat, while allowing time to adjust care because different ingredients affect water and nutrients differently.

Understand the purpose of changing

Peatlands hold large stores of carbon and provide habitats for wildlife. Taking peat for horticulture harms these ecosystems, so using other materials in growing media can help reduce pressure on a limited natural resource.

Check that a product is labelled peat free rather than simply reduced peat. The latter wording does not mean peat has been removed. Ask the supplier for both an ingredient breakdown and a product specification. Written details are especially useful if you plan to describe plants as peat free, since they help you check and explain the claim accurately.

Growing media matter to florists who sell or look after potted plants, grow stems themselves or create planted arrangements. Cut flowers displayed in water do not normally need growing media, so focus your checks on the plants and tasks that do.

Read the mix and its details

Peat free media may include coir, wood fibre, composted bark or green compost. These ingredients give a mix different properties: bark can leave air spaces around roots, while coir can help retain moisture. The proportions and combination matter, so do not judge a product by one ingredient alone.

Ask where the ingredients come from and how they are processed. Transport, water use and processing all contribute to a medium's environmental footprint. A local source may mean less transport, but distance by itself cannot show the full impact.

Find out the mix's acidity, nutrient content and intended use. These details matter because plants can need different growing conditions, and a general potting mix may not suit every crop. Also check if fertiliser is already included; knowing this helps prevent unnecessary feeding.

Run a small trial first

Buy a small quantity and test it on a few plants you handle often before making a large commitment. Compare it with your usual medium over several weeks. Look for healthy roots and steady growth, and note warning signs such as wilting or yellow leaves. A trial lets you see how the mix behaves in your own routine.

Review watering rather than assuming your old schedule still fits. A peat free medium may look dry at the surface but remain damp below, or it may dry at a different rate from your previous mix. Check beneath the surface and consider the pot's weight before watering, since either clue can help you avoid adding water too soon.

Record the product, batch and results. If the mix works well, ask whether it will remain available and consistent before ordering a larger amount. Keeping those details can make it easier to repeat a successful care routine with future batches.

Check these points with the supplier

Does the mix contain any peat?

Request written confirmation that every ingredient is peat free, along with a full description of what is included. This gives you a basis for checking the claim and speaking accurately with customers.

What kinds of plants suit it?

Explain what you grow or sell and ask which plants the mix is designed for. A medium that holds the right amount of water for one group may retain too much or too little for another.

What help is available after purchase?

Ask for advice on watering, feeding and storage, and find out whom to contact with questions about a particular batch. Clear guidance can make a new medium easier to test and use well.

Worth a look: flowers for weddings, baptisms and funerals