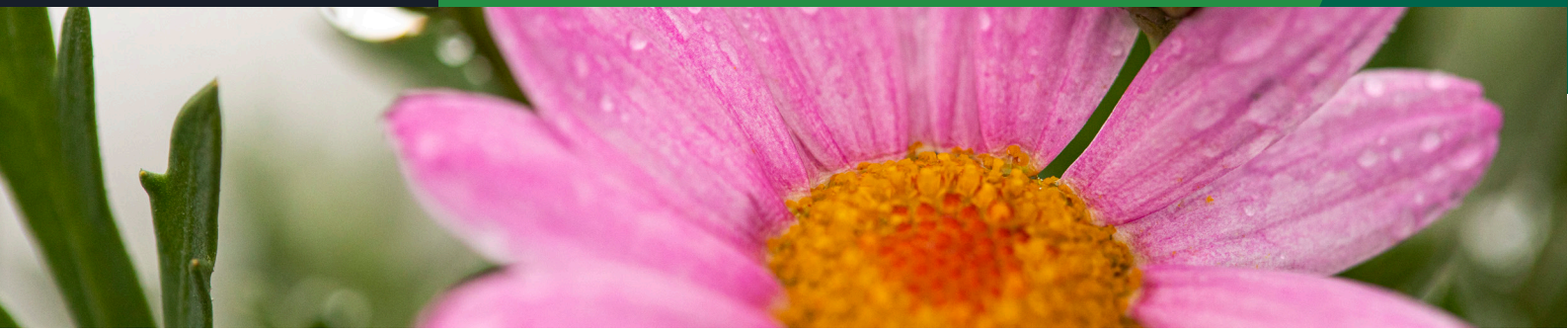
Enhancing Peat-Free Growing

The importance of Nutrition when growing in peat-free



Prioritising nutrition is essential when using peat-free compost. To maximise yields and produce high-quality crops, supplying the correct balance of nutrients is critical. Peat-free composts typically contain lower nutrient levels than peat-based media, making careful nutrient management key to achieving optimal growth, productivity, and plant health. The following guidance is based on expert insight from our Growing Media and Fertiliser Specialist, Sean Whitworth.

Ensuring a balanced nutrient supply
Peat-free composts often have lower inherent nutrient content compared to peat-based alternatives. Providing plants with the appropriate balance of nutrients ensures they receive the essential elements required for healthy growth and development. Balanced nutrition supports strong root systems, robust foliage, and consistent flowering or fruiting.

Supporting sustained plant growth
Nutrients act as the fuel that drives essential plant processes, supporting growth and development throughout the season. Supplying adequate nutrition when growing in peat-free compost helps sustain crops over longer growing periods and supports those requiring a continuous supply of nutrients for consistent production.

Compensating for nutrient limitations
Peat-free composts may naturally lack certain nutrients or have reduced nutrient-holding capacity. Supplementing with additional nutrients helps overcome these limitations and ensures plants have access to the elements they need. This can be achieved through organic matter additions, organic fertilisers, or carefully balanced conventional fertilisers.

Preventing nutrient deficiencies
Insufficient nutrient availability can result in deficiencies that affect plant health and yield. Crops grown in peat-free compost may be more susceptible to deficiencies due to lower baseline nutrient levels. Applying nutrients in the correct amounts and ratios helps prevent common issues, such as nitrogen deficiency leading to yellowing leaves or phosphorus deficiency affecting root development.

Enhancing disease resistance and stress tolerance
Good nutrition plays a vital role in strengthening plant resilience. Well-nourished plants are better able to withstand disease pressure and environmental stresses. When growing in peat-free compost, optimal nutrient levels help plants cope with challenges such as drought, temperature extremes, and transplant stress, while supporting faster recovery.

By understanding and meeting the specific nutritional requirements of crops grown in peat-free compost, growers can unlock their full potential. Effective nutrient management supports strong yields, consistent crop quality, and the successful adoption of more sustainable growing practices.

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