



Sustainability Plan 2023

Environmental Policy

Our Policy is to strive to provide high quality plants and services which cause minimal negative impact on our local environment. Protection of the environment, surrounding communities, and ecosystems are critical to the business.

We recognise that our working practices will inevitably impact on the environment in several ways: pesticide use, carbon emissions, light, waste, water usage and, peat use.

It is our responsibility to minimise the potentially harmful effects of such activities wherever and whenever possible to reduce our impact.

We comply with all aspects of UK law, regulations and codes of practice governing pesticide use, pollution, waste and associated issues.

We aim to improve environmental performance year on year through monitoring our use of resources, investing in environmental technologies, changing the way we work to ensure we are using the most sustainable practices and implementing objectives to reduce our impact. Our policy will be published on our website and staff will be made aware through inclusion in our company handbook.

Allensmore Nurseries has pledged support for the Horticultural Trades Associations sustainability roadmap demonstrating to customers and suppliers our commitment to sustainable practices.

The plastic pots we use contain over 80% recycled plastic and are coloured to make them identifiable by local authority recycling systems.

We work with local recycling companies including burning waste for the production of electricity resulting in no waste going to landfill.

On the nursery we collect and recycle the water that we use on over 90% of our production area. Irrigation is through capillary matting reducing water use,

keeping plant leaves dryer and reducing the incidence of diseases and the need to apply chemicals.

We aim to reduce pests and diseases through good cultural practices, we make extensive use of biological pest control and only apply chemicals as a last resort. Tank washings are passed through a biofilter to further reduce the impact on the environment.

We work towards a written conservation plan that encourages both flora and fauna across our nursery sites.

We work with local schools and communities to encourage active planting and improvement of the local environment.

We have committed to eliminating peat from our growing media and that of our finished plant suppliers by 2026. We are working with our young plant suppliers to reduce the use of peat and eliminate by 2028.

Integrated Farm Management Policy

Allensmore Nurseries are a company aiming to deliver more resilient and sustainable horticultural practices using the best of modern technology and traditional methods.

We will aim to achieve this by the following means:

Organisation and planning

Having a clear direction for the business based on the optimisation of our land potential. Identifying market outlets for produce prior to production. Setting objectives and monitoring the results to provide the means by which the benefits of IFM can be quantified, demonstrated and continuously improved.

Crop Health and Protection

Reductions in Chemical pesticide applications and increasing use of cultural methods, bio pesticides and biological agents to control pest and disease across our production. Crop monitoring by trained staff, with the help of qualified professionals to aid early detection of pest, disease and disorders. Investment in new technologies and innovations to further improve the quality of production with less impact to the environment.

Pollution Control

Aim to reduce the impact of our presence on the environment through recycling of waste materials and by products we may generate. The use of well-maintained, efficient and modern machinery suitable for our operations. Frequent checks on water supplies, ditches and reservoirs to ensure water is of good quality.

Energy Efficiency

Managing activities in consideration of energy use across the business and improvements to structures, lighting and infrastructure will help towards energy saving and cost reductions. Consider whether energy generation from renewable sources is appropriate and cost effective for the business.

Growing media

Working towards the use of a sustainably sourced alternatives to peat. Ensure fertiliser is applied only when plants require it, and it is applied in the most efficient way possible. Avoiding unnecessary cost and minimise the risk of run-off and pollution.

Water Management

Efficient water management involving rainwater harvesting and timely application of irrigation across the whole of the nursery sites. Frequent testing and recording of water quality and measuring water usage, with irrigation being carried out with the use of modern irrigation equipment to ensure accurate application.

Landscape and Nature Conservation

Our Landscape and Nature Conservation Plan should encourage a greater biodiversity and provide focus on important species which call Allensmore nurseries home. Provision of certain areas across our sites including woodland, grassland and reservoirs provides food and nesting opportunities for all kinds of species of animals and birds. Responsible management of these areas will help increase the number of species and enhance the local environment.

Community Engagement

Communicating and working with local community, farmers and landowners to encourage goodwill locally.

Through these means we hope to achieve improved performance, technical excellence, Compliance, and better productivity.

Peat Reduction Policy

We are aware of the arguments in the "Peat Debate" and have been working for over 30 years in our efforts towards the elimination of peat in our substrate mixes resulting in use being 35% in 2023 for most crops and Roses being 100% peat free.

Peat elimination policy

Our aim is to achieve the elimination of peat in our growing media used for growing on by 2026. All of our growing media suppliers have engaged with us to achieve this.

Further information

We are encouraging our suppliers of young plants and liners to eliminate peat from their production most are using peat reduced growing media in their plugs. Most plugs are very small relative to the size of the pot used for growing on, and most plugs are peat reduced, so the amount of peat in a finished 3L pot would be less than 5%.

We are also encouraging our suppliers of finished (traded) plants to follow suit, but many of these products are several years old when we buy them, so it could be several years later that peat is phased out completely in our traded plants.

Coir

Whilst Coir is regarded as a good alternative to peat, we will also investigate and trial alternative materials with less of the inherent environmental and supply issues associated with Coir.

Steps to Peat Elimination

In 2023 peat makes up 35% of our growing media, in 2022 we began begin peat free trials across our production. As a result of our trials, we are agreeing next steps towards reducing peat use with the aim of reducing peat use in our own production to zero for crops potted in 2026.