



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Peat Policy

Approved by NTS Board February 2008

Significance of Peat

The Trust recognises the natural heritage, landscape and archaeological value of peatlands and the importance of peat as a carbon store. The Trust will continue to work to conserve and improve the condition of the peatland on its properties and to promote the positive management of peatlands more widely.

Gardens

The Trust is phasing out the use of peat in horticulture by 2010 and will encourage others to do likewise. A very limited amount of peat, from sustainable sources, may continue to be used at specific gardens¹ in order to maintain a few key features that, based on an assessment, are of historical and horticultural significance.

Plant Sales

The Trust will work for continual year-on-year reductions in the overall amount of peat used in plants for sale and will aim to be peat-free by 2011. To achieve this practical obstacles will have to be addressed including consultation with plant suppliers to produce peat-free plant material and the supply of such in remote areas.

Advocacy

Promoting the message of reducing peat use is as important as the initiative itself. As it goes through this process the Trust will therefore explain to the public what it is doing, the reasons for conserving peat, and what the alternatives may be, in order to help inform the choices that amateur gardeners make.

¹ In 2007 the key features that require the continuing use of a small amount of peat to maintain them are the peat banks at Branklyn, Inverewe and Threave.