

## Our policy on the use of natural resources

We recognise that the uncontrolled sourcing of animal, plant species, minerals and growing media can have serious effects on local ecosystems.

### Wild populations

We avoid sourcing from wild populations wherever possible, preferring to source from cultivated or farmed stocks instead. We also encourage the use of informative labelling for such products.

### Vulnerable wild populations

Plants or animals not included in official lists are considered on an individual site and species basis.

Where expert independent opinion and research indicates that the wild population is threatened by trade, we consider alternative species or sources and/or take further action to ensure that wild populations are not degraded or threatened.

### Quarried materials

We will work with interested stakeholders to develop a set of labour and environmental standards for quarried materials that UK based companies would expect to find in the quarries in their global supply chain. The implementation of these standards will be an on-going process of gradual improvement, accompanied by monitoring and verification. However, the setting of the standards represents an important first step in addressing ethical and environmental concerns which have been identified in this industry.

### Growing media

In line with the aims of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, our objective is to be 90% peat-free. We aim to source suitable, well managed renewable alternatives to peat which also have a low carbon impact.

We will

- Reduce the use of peat in retail bags and plant products wherever possible by using acceptable alternatives and minimising the volume wherever peat is used
- Source peat responsibly, so that any extraction minimises damage to the environment or habitat
- Ensure peat is not sourced from designated areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or any national equivalent
- Encourage suppliers to comply with best practice and have habitat rehabilitation plans post-extraction
- Require all manufacturers of bagged products to join the Growing Media Initiative (GMI) and ensure their production and extraction processes comply with the British Ornamental Plant Producers' code of practice for growing media manufacturers
- Encourage all manufacturers of bagged products and plant suppliers to develop a growing media policy that sets targets and contains action plans to meet them

### Timber products

We have a separate policy for timber (see page 93)

### Raising awareness

We make information regarding our sourcing of the above products freely available, either on product labels themselves, information leaflets or upon request.