



INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY AND STOCKBRIDGE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CONFERENCE

**4TH OCTOBER 2011 at
STOCKBRIDGE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

CAN QUALITY PLANTS BE GROWN WITHOUT PEAT?

A grower and gardener conference to inform on the international and EU thoughts on sustainable peat usage by growers of food and ornamental plant production; also to discuss the wise use of peat by English horticulture producers and gardeners.

Exhibitions: There will be a display of trial results, using a range of growing media now being offered to gardeners/growers with Julian Davies of STC and a display of potential problems which might be encountered by users of Green Waste Compost with Dr Martin McPherson also of STC. These will be manned during the registration and refreshment breaks.

AGENDA

- 10.00 Registration and Coffee/Tea
- 10.25 Welcome to the Michael Holmes Conference Centre and introduction to the morning Chairman Mr Neil Bragg, Chairman of the Horticultural Development Company.
Graham Ward - STC
- 10.30 Global Peat and Peatland Issues
Professor Jack Rieley - International Peat Society
- 11.00 Sources of peat for the UK horticultural market and volume and extraction site status of current and future English Extractions.
Mr James Hayes - Chairman of the Growing Media Association
- 11.30 Questions
- 11.40 Peat and other growing media constituents produced traded and used in the EU – can we sustain horticultural development without peat?
Gerald Schmilewski – Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH (Research and Development) and representative of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) and Chair IPS Commission 11

- 12.05 The Dutch Horticultural Industry Policy Framework
Hein Boon – Dutch Horticulture Growers Association
- 12.30 Questions
- 12.40 Lunch and displays
- 1.30 How do Horticultural Society members view the problems which they have encountered, over the past few years, using peat reduced or alternative growing media?
Chairman - TBC
- Three ten minute presentations by
- Mr Roger Brownbridge – National Chrysanthemum Society**
Mr Adrian Reed – National Vegetable Society, Chairman of N Yorks and Durham
Mr Rick Benton – National Streptocarpus Society
- 2.00 Open forum – chaired by **TBC** with three speakers and
Ms Hilary Dodson of the Northern Fruit Society
Mr Julian Davies – Agronomy Director STC
- 2.30 Propagation
Chaired by Mr Philip Effingham – Produce Director, Produce World Ltd (Marshalls)
- Difficulties and challenges of the propagation process, from seedling to field establishment.
Experiences of trials with reduced peat media
Mr James Bean – Chair of Plant Propagators Ltd
- 3.00 Food Security and Food Safety – implication for food production sectors
Liz Johnson Farms Technical Director ,J B Shropshire & Sons
- 3.30 Close and tea

NOTE: This conference is by invitation confirmation as spaces are limited. Can you please register with Ann (annblack@stc-nyorks.co.uk) should you wish to attend. We will use a first come first served principle of allocation of places.