peatless

Alternative substrates with **#LessPeat** to support the Green Transition in horticulture

What is PEATLESS?

PEATLESS is an EU-funded initiative uniting 12 partners across 4 countries to reduce peat use in horticulture. By promoting sustainable, locally sourced alternatives, the project supports the EU Green Deal and Nature Restoration Law goals, restoring 50% of peatlands by 2050 and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Why it Matters

Peat is prized for its water retention, nutrient balance, and disease resistance.

But its extraction damagies biodiversity, degrades soil, and releases CO_2. Peat demand is projected to triple by 2050, while no suitable alternatives are available yet.

What Are Alternative Substrates?

Materials that can replace peat as a growing media, like compost, wood fibres, Sphagnum moss, and bark. They mimic peat's properties while being more eco-friendly.

By 2050, PEATLESS Will:

- Save significant amounts of peat and prevent CO_2 emissions
- Help 5,000 horticultural businesses across 40 regions
- Deliver 30+ practical policy recommendations

Overcoming Barriers

Technical

PEATLESS will develop 18 peat-reduced blends (≤30% peat) using local materials like compost, fermented grass, and rice husk—and test them in mushroom, seedling, and ornamental systems across Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Switzerland.

Socio-Cultural

Through Living Labs, demo sites, and creative outreach PEATLESS will empower growers with knowledge and confidence.

Economic

The project supports new business models and local value chains, plus 30+ policy recommendations to drive change at all levels.

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