



## **GMA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

GMA members are committed to minimizing the environmental impact of the businesses they run. Members routinely assess the environmental impact of their operations and identify measures to:

- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce waste
- Prevent pollution
- Conserve natural habitats and biodiversity

As manufacturers, the growing media industry, through the GMA, seeks to serve the best interests of their customers and its members through the development and manufacture of effective, safe and commercially viable products. To this end, the industry applies robust science and sound commercial principles to the assessment, development and use of all constituents.

As responsible businesses, the products that the GMA members produce must meet the criteria of efficacy, safety and commercial viability. Members also adopt a responsible attitude to environmental and ethical considerations.

- The GMA will always seek to encourage the use of recycled or sustainable constituents where efficacy, safety and commercial viability are not jeopardised.
- All attempts will be made to use materials, which minimize environmental impact. The GMA encourages the investigation of opportunities for non-peat constituents through trials and research.
- GMA members seek to minimize carbon emissions in the production of growing media without compromising the products efficacy.
- GMA members support the HTA Environmental Strategy for the Garden Industry ([www.hta.org.uk](http://www.hta.org.uk))
- The GMA values the unique and important nature of peatland habitats in the UK and Ireland. The GMA recognises the need to take this into account in its use of peat in bog restoration and after-use schemes. Restoration and after-use have an important role to play in securing the future of sustainable peatland habitats. GMA members will work with Government, the relevant planning authorities, statutory conservation organisations and key NGOs to achieve this objective.

A wide spectrum of constituents such as bark, coir, processed wood, composted green material, peat, vermiculite; etc may be utilized to formulate growing media and soil improvers to give optimum characteristics of efficacy, safety, reliability and commercial viability. The GMA acknowledges that there are issues relating to the environmental impact of some of these constituents.

BOPP (British Ornamental Plant Producers) BOPP ([www.bopp.org.uk](http://www.bopp.org.uk)) and the GMA have produced BOPP Growing Media Producers Standard. This accreditation standard has been developed with assurance that the operations of growing media manufacturers meet the high standards of quality, safety, service and environmental management.

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