

Position paper on further peat reduction

Düsseldorf, April 2022

Peat is still the most important component of potting soil and growing media for professional use. In terms both of extraction and of exploitation peat decomposes and releases the bound carbon. In the light of climate policy objectives, the German politics is pushing for a reduction in peat use. As the Garden Industry Association (IVG) has noted, the reduction targets for peat in growing media for consumer and professional use that have been fixed in a voluntary commitment for 2025, were already met in 2021.

At present, however, no commitment can be made to further increase the reduction targets for the following reasons:

- **Uncertain geopolitical situation:** The current situation enormously challenges the industry with regard to the procurement of high-quality growing media constituents as well as in the field of logistics, fertilisers and energy costs.
- **Legal barriers:** Legislative amendments in the general conditions in the field of raw material use, fertiliser legislation and construction law are currently pending.
- **Growing market:** Within a growing market, raw materials are also becoming scarcer and new sources of raw materials need to be explored. In addition, the quantitative and qualitative availability of other raw materials has to be improved. Domestic raw materials shall not be preferred over imported raw materials.
- **Demand from commercial horticulture:** As tests in commercial horticulture reveal, a complete renunciation of peat will not be possible. In order to assure the supply of regionally produced food, the demand from commercial horticulture (approx. 2 million m³/a) must be met.
- **Financial support:** The development of peat alternatives requires public support for enterprises with regard to the development of products, the search for new raw materials as well as with regard to investments in new production facilities.

