



Made from
alternative materials*

Kingfisher

Fact sheet:

Compost



Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.

Why compost matters

Peat has been a major component of bagged compost since the 1950s, but this has been at the cost of the environment.

Peat bogs form over thousands of years, locking up carbon and providing a habitat to many wildlife species. Peat bogs help to manage water, acting as a natural filter and slowing flows which can reduce the risk of flooding. Peatlands have been calculated to store more than 550 gigatonnes annually of carbon globally, more than double the amount stored in the world's forests¹. It is estimated that 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon are effectively locked in the peatlands of the UK alone². Peatlands cover 12% of Europe's land area⁶.

Wildlife linked to peat bogs in Europe includes cranes, dunlins, golden plovers, large heath butterflies, swallowtail butterflies, water voles and specialist plants including sphagnum mosses, sundews and cottongrasses¹. Protecting and restoring peatlands is specified in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030³.

Peatlands, if in natural condition, can have a "net cooling effect on climate, reduce flood risk, and support biodiversity" but if degraded, can become net emitters of carbon².

In the UK, around 4,500 hectares of peatland, mostly lowland raised bogs, are used for industrial peat extraction for the horticulture industry². The peat extracted is used in compost for growing plants. Many countries import peat, including the UK, France, Poland and Spain. Exporters of peat include Ireland, Latvia., Lithuania, Estonia, Germany and the Netherlands.⁷

It takes around 1,000 years for 1 metre of peat to form but when peat is removed from a bog's damp and anaerobic environment, it breaks down quickly releasing the stored carbon into the atmosphere⁴. Moving away from peat in bagged compost is important to ensure that peatland habitats can be protected.

Alternatives to peat include wood fibre, green waste and coir. Compost ingredients should be responsibly sourced. For example, wood fibre should be traceable back to responsibly managed forests or to a recycling source. For own label ranges, Kingfisher has undertaken research on behalf of its banners to test peat free compost formulations at its garden research facility in Hampshire⁵.

Criteria 1:



How we assess Green Star products

Every product should meet:

- **All relevant legal requirements**
- **All Kingfisher policy requirements**

[You can access the Kingfisher policies here.](#) These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards and Sustainable Packaging.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Pertinent to compost are Kingfisher's policies for sourcing wood responsibly, including wood fibre which is a key component of bagged compost.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'compost' assessment focuses on the materials' phase of the product's life cycle for products where the choice of materials can have a significant potential impact. Green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful linked to in-use or end of life disposal phases.

Criteria 2:



Green star programme entry

Green Star compost must be peat-free.

Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can highlighted with the green star.

Reviewing and confirming green star status

- ✓ All products nominated are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation. Assessments and validation aim to establish if a product meets Criteria 1 and 2. To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)



- ✔ Once the external review is conducted, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the Green Star.
- ✔ A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

Watch List Criteria relevant to compost

These criteria highlight product features that make them unsuitable for green star assessment:

- ✘ Products containing specified carbon intensive materials:
 - Products containing peat.
 - Product with components made from paper or wood that do not meet Kingfisher's Forest Positive policy.
 - Products containing palm oil, cotton, rubber, biobased materials or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced.

- ✘ Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.

References

1. [IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#)
2. [Peatlands Factsheet, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology](#)
3. [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Bringing nature back into our lives](#)
4. [Scotland's Amazing Peatlands, World Wildlife Fund](#)
5. [Kingfisher Responsible Business Report 2023/24](#)
6. [Peatlands Passport – A Tour of Peatland Types – Wetlands International](#)
7. [Peat, OEC profile](#)

Checked July 2025.

