



Peat-free composts: which one is right for me?

To help you decide which peat-free compost is right for you, here is our succinct buyers' guide.

We've taken the following attributes into consideration:

- Price per litre: LOW (less than 15 p), MEDIUM (15-25 p), HIGH (over 25 p). Please note prices vary from retailer to retailer and are subject to change. Comparisons have been based on the most economical pack size in Jan 2021. You may be able to get a better price by shopping around.
- Performance is based on comparative trials by Which? magazine, CAI members' feedback and online customer reviews.
- Ethical/sustainable sourcing: we've rated most highly those products made in the UK from local or sustainable resources, and/or which are endorsed/accredited by recognised bodies such as The Soil Association (organic) and the Forestry Stewardship Council.
- Local availability: at the present time, only a limited number of peat-free composts are sold by local retailers; others can be ordered online but prices tend to be higher as they include delivery. Several excellent peat-free products aren't yet available locally or direct from the supplier. *Products with no local supplier and not available online have been excluded from the lists below.* If you would like local retailers to stock a specific product why not contact them and ask?

In the following tables, products are listed alphabetically. See end for local and online stockists.

1. Best multipurpose peat-free compost for containers

Product	Performance	Local availability	Price band	Responsible sourcing
Dalesfoot Wool Compost	EXCELLENT	LIMITED	HIGH	EXCELLENT
Miracle-Gro peat-free	EXCELLENT	LIMITED	LOW	GOOD
Sainsbury's own label peat-free	EXCELLENT	UNKNOWN	LOW	UNKNOWN

Note: According to the manufacturer, there is no need to apply additional plant food for an entire season with wool compost. Feed plants grown in peat-free Miracle-Gro after 3 months.

2. Most competitively priced multipurpose peat-free composts

Product	Performance	Local availability	Price per litre	Responsible sourcing
Homebase own label peat-free	GOOD	Check with nearest store (Yeadon, Bingley)	10.5 p	UNKNOWN
Sainsbury's own label peat-free	EXCELLENT	Check with nearest store (Otley)	11.2 p	UNKNOWN
Westland New Horizon	VARIABLE ¹	EXCELLENT	11.7 p	GOOD
Wilko own label peat-free	UNKNOWN	Check with nearest store (Shipley)	10 p	UNKNOWN

¹Good for seed germination but there is uncertainty about its usefulness for bringing on young plants.

3. Best for keen gardeners looking for a peat-free range of products

Range	Number of products	Performance	Local availability	Price band	Responsible sourcing
Dalesfoot composts	8	EXCELLENT	POOR	HIGH	EXCELLENT
Fertile Fibre	3 organic, 3 vegan	EXCELLENT	POOR but can buy direct online	HIGH	EXCELLENT
Melcourt SylvaGrow	7	EXCELLENT	GOOD	MEDIUM	EXCELLENT

Note: Miracle-Gro are introducing a comprehensive range of peat-free products in 2021; currently there is only their multipurpose offering. This is possibly the most technologically advanced peat-free compost but not yet widely available and performance is unknown.



Where to buy peat-free compost

Product	Stockists (some retailers may not sell the full range)
Dalesfoot Composts	Booths
Fertile Fibre range	Available online direct from manufacturer
Melcourt Sylvagrow range	Mortens Ilkley, Courtyard Planters Otley, RHS Harlow Carr Harrogate
Miracle-Gro range	Moss and Moor Ilkley
Westland New Horizon range	Moss and Moor Ilkley, Stephen Smith's Garden Centre Otley, Old Bridge Nursery Ilkley, Swincar Nurseries Guiseley, B & Q, Blue Barn Baildon, Wickes, Homebase

We will endeavour to keep this table continuously updated.

Please let us know if you identify any other local retailers of peat-free compost or any different peat-free brands on sale. For a full list of peat-free composts, [click here or go to \(inset web link\).](#)