

Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd

## Environmental Security and Sustainability Policy

Joseph Rochford Gardens is dedicated to the production and supply of best quality plants and related products. The company's policy is underpinned by the ongoing commitment to ensure our daily operations have minimal effect on the wider environment locally, nationally and globally.

The business is intrinsically linked to environmental wellbeing, making a positive contribution by improving the surroundings where we live and work. Our products have a positive impact by affecting the aesthetics of an area, reducing pollutants in the air, reducing noise pollution, improving drainage and reducing flood risk. They provide a natural habitat for wildlife and a shelter where needed.

At Joseph Rochford Gardens, we aim to produce the best quality plants for the purposes required whilst ensuring our commercial activities are managed with maximum efficiency in regard to all resources. Our Environmental Security & Sustainability Policy provides the basis for efficient, profitable nursery stock production that is economically viable and environmentally responsible. The aim is high quality production with the emphasis on careful control of inputs to minimise waste and pollution and to increase energy efficiency.

We comply with all aspects of UK and EU law. Regulations and Codes of Practice cover pesticide use, pollution, waste and associated issues, as well as the health and safety of our employees, our customers and those affected by our operations.

The environmental impact of the company is monitored through annual reviews of this Policy and supporting documents by Senior Management. The directors of Joseph Rochford Gardens are committed to the aims of the policy which are implemented by Senior Management and involve all staff.

*Quality and Environmental Accreditation.* Joseph Rochford Gardens Ltd has been a certified member of the OHAS Quality Management Scheme (Ornamental Horticulture Assurance Scheme) since 2004. The scheme examines all aspects of the business including environmental, legal and ethical policies. The OHAS audit methodology encourages continuous improvement of the business and its policies. Audits are held annually to ensure standards are maintained. Audits are carried out by a UKAS accredited certification body and the scheme is benchmarked to GLOBALG.A.P<sup>1</sup>. OHAS is a specialist group within the HTA.

We are actively working on the following areas of the business which are detailed in the relevant audit or the Environmental action plan.

### **1. Waste control and recycling.**

- A waste audit is completed annually ([audit](#)).
- The company's waste packaging obligations are met via membership to the BIFFPACK compliance scheme.
- We practice the 'avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle' philosophy within all areas of the business; volumes of waste produced yearly and volumes of materials sent for recycling are recorded and, where practical, targets are set for improvement.
- Systems for legislation introduced 2022; EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) and PPT (Plastic Packaging Tax) are being established.

## **2. Pest disease and weed control**

- Rochfords is committed to promoting good Plant Health. Rochfords policies and procedures have been developed to put Plant Health at the centre of Production, Purchasing, Sales and Despatch.
- The Rochfords Plant Health & Biosecurity Policy and Induction ([policy](#)) underpin how the company operates to maintain best plant health and to protect biosecurity of the business and wider environment.
- Rochfords use Integrated Crop Management methods across the nursery sites. The methods used help to protect plants against pest and disease infection reducing the need for chemical intervention. Where intervention is required, careful selection and rotation of active ingredients, the use of bio stimulants and biological control methods are employed.
- Buffer zones around crops protect the surrounding habitats and encourage natural predators.
- Where possible, target-specific chemicals are used. We are constantly investigating solutions to pest and disease problems without the need for harmful chemicals.

## **3. Water and Pollution**

- A pollution audit is completed annually ([audit](#)). The audit looks at all materials / processes with the potential to cause pollution.
- We practice efficient water management across both nursery sites. A combination of borehole and reservoir water is used. Where practical, sub-irrigation methods are used, reducing the risk of leaching into the environment. A LERAP assessment is completed annually to assess risk to watercourses. Water sources are sampled annually to measure pollution risk.

## **4. Growing Media**

- All growing media mixes contain 30-50% peat free components. 100% peat free mixes are also used. Production season 2021 saw approx. 50% of all own potted material potted in a 100% peat free mix. For 2022 across production, we have been 80% peat free. Developments in the use of alternative substrates are ongoing in discussion with our suppliers.
- Since 2011 we have been able to offer customers peat free stock of specific crops. See Rochfords Growing Media statement for more info.
- A Growing Media Statement is in place ([statement](#))

## **5. Energy Conservation**

- An energy audit is completed annually ([audit](#)).
- All energy consuming processes are well maintained and monitored for job suitability and efficiency.
- Solar panels on both sites produce a third of our company's energy requirements. A biomass boiler provides the heating required for the business.

## **6. Plant Conservation.**

- We do not knowingly source any plants from protected areas and have a risk assessment process in place to assess the credentials of new suppliers.

## **7. Site Conservation.**

- A Conservation audit is completed annually ([audit](#)).
- The main areas of conservation for Rochfords are grouped as follows; the surrounding environment, water resources, growing media and plant health.

Environmental documentation for Joseph Rochfords included as part of this policy;

**1. GROWING MEDIA STATEMENT**

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS**

- Pollution & Waste
- Energy
- Conservation

**3. [ACTION LIST](#)**

**4. PLANT HEALTH AND BIOSECURITY POLICY & INDUCTION**

<sup>1</sup> GLOBALG.A.P – the worldwide standard for good agricultural practice.