

# **Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland**

## Policy on the Use of Peat in Horticulture

Our gardens, and gardeners, are essential in helping to support pollinators and there is often more wildlife thriving in gardens than in surrounding agricultural land. Due to the rich diversity of plants growing in our gardens, these outside spaces, and the gardeners who tend them, are critical to support a wide range of pollinators.

The RHSI is committed to avoiding the use of pesticides if at all possible. Where there is no reasonable alternative, organic pesticides should be used with caution and never sprayed near open flowers.

The Society, through its activities, events and outreach work will seek to promote this policy, and will endeavour to avoid the use of pesticides in the RHSI Russborough Garden and the RHSI Laurelmere Cottage in Marlay Park.

Gardeners can also help pollinators by

- preventing and reducing pests and diseases by good cultivation, cultivar selection and garden hygiene.
- using biological control should always be the first line of control.
- providing water for pollinators such as a shallow margin of a pond or a shallow dish filled with stones

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