

# Responsible Sourcing Scheme

BPOA Technical Conference



Steve Harper – Scheme Chair &  
CEO of Southern Trident

Good Business

Cost

Efficacy

+ Responsibility

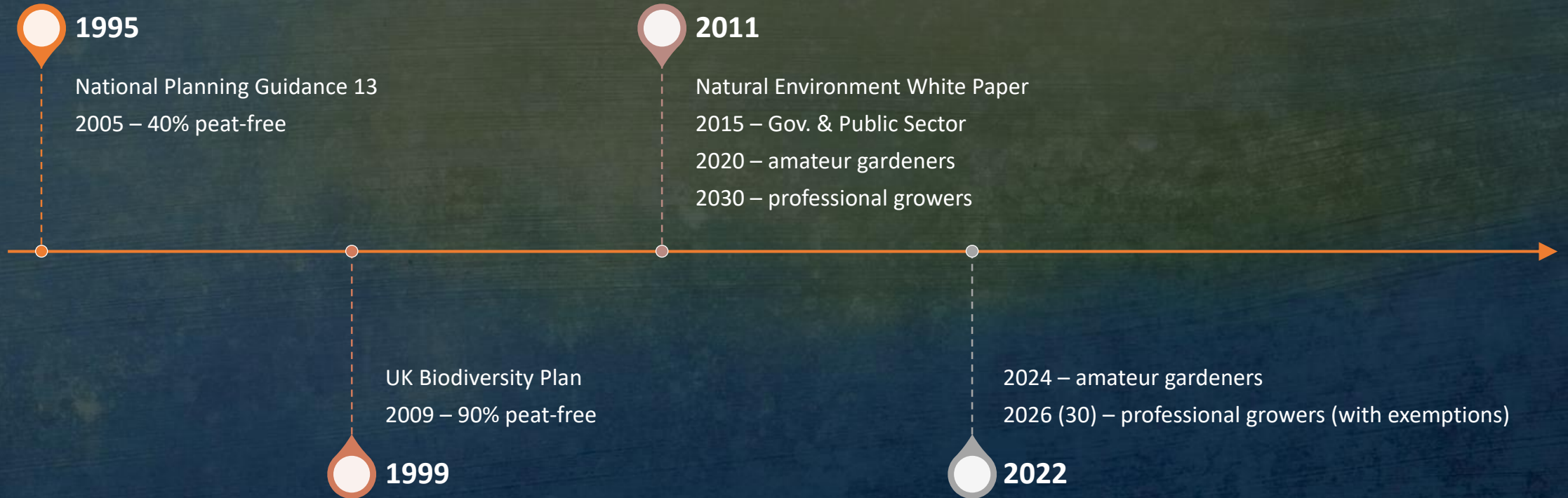
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Responsible Commerciality

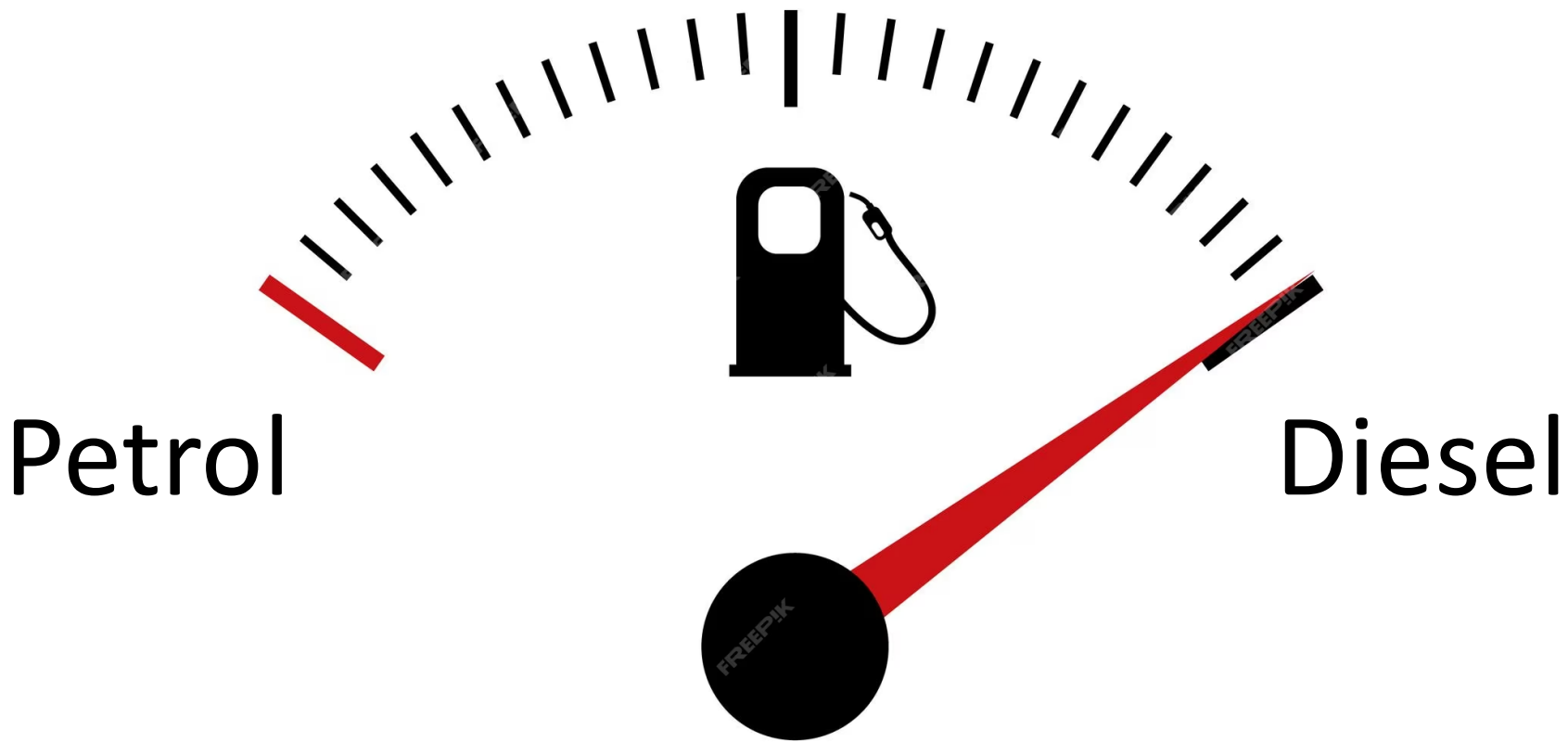
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# History of peat-free

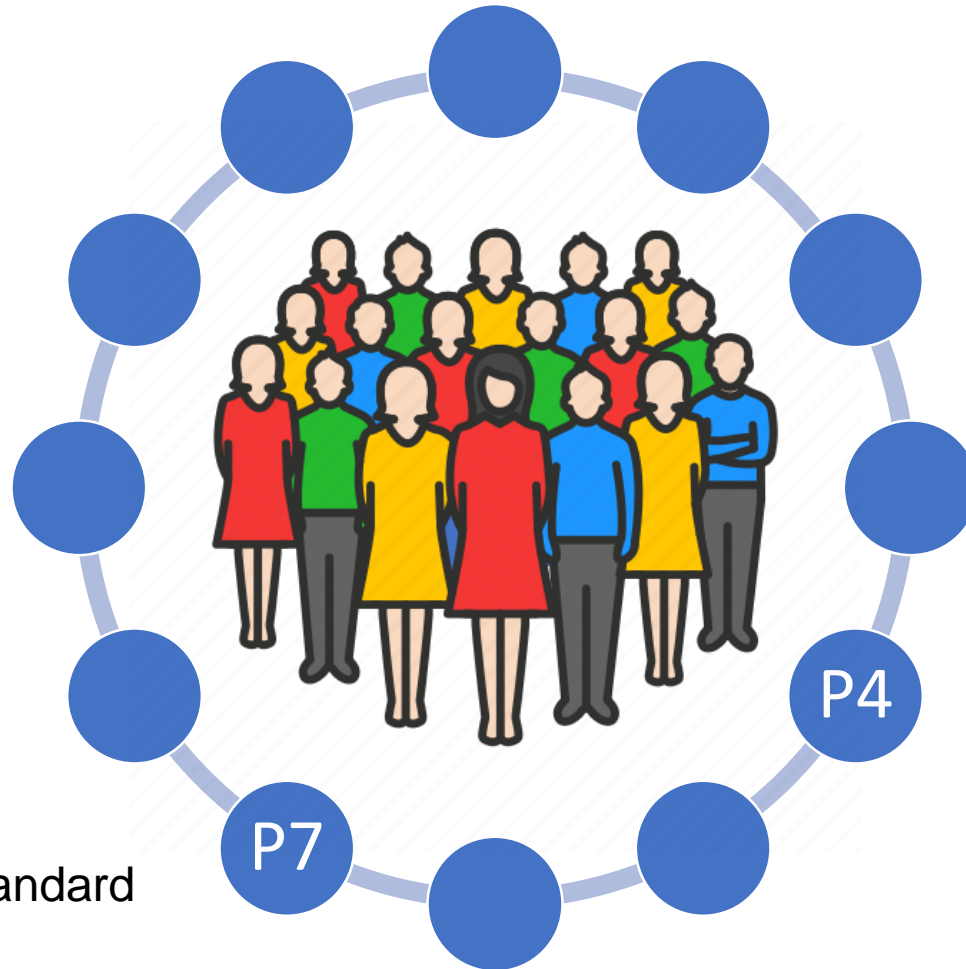


# Analogy



# Sustainable Growing Media Task Force

Defra  
Manufacturers  
Retailers  
Growers  
NGO's



a set of responsible sourcing and manufacturing criteria

develop a performance standard for multi-purpose compost

# What is the RSS?



An industry led scheme



Making informed  
decisions about the  
impact of growing media



Using a traffic light  
system to empower users

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing blue nitrile gloves, holding a large, fluffy mound of brown peat moss. The peat is fibrous and has a rich, earthy brown color. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the peat and the person's hands. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the peat.

The scheme does not demonise peat

It treats all substrates equally

# 7 Measurements

1. **Energy Use** – Assesses the energy used to create the raw material.
2. **Water Use** – How much water is used in the process of creating the raw material. Water is a finite resource.
3. **Social Compliance** – This is all about people – making sure that people employed to provide the raw material are working in acceptable conditions.
4. **Habitat & Biodiversity** – Ensure that when the raw material is produced it minimises its impact.





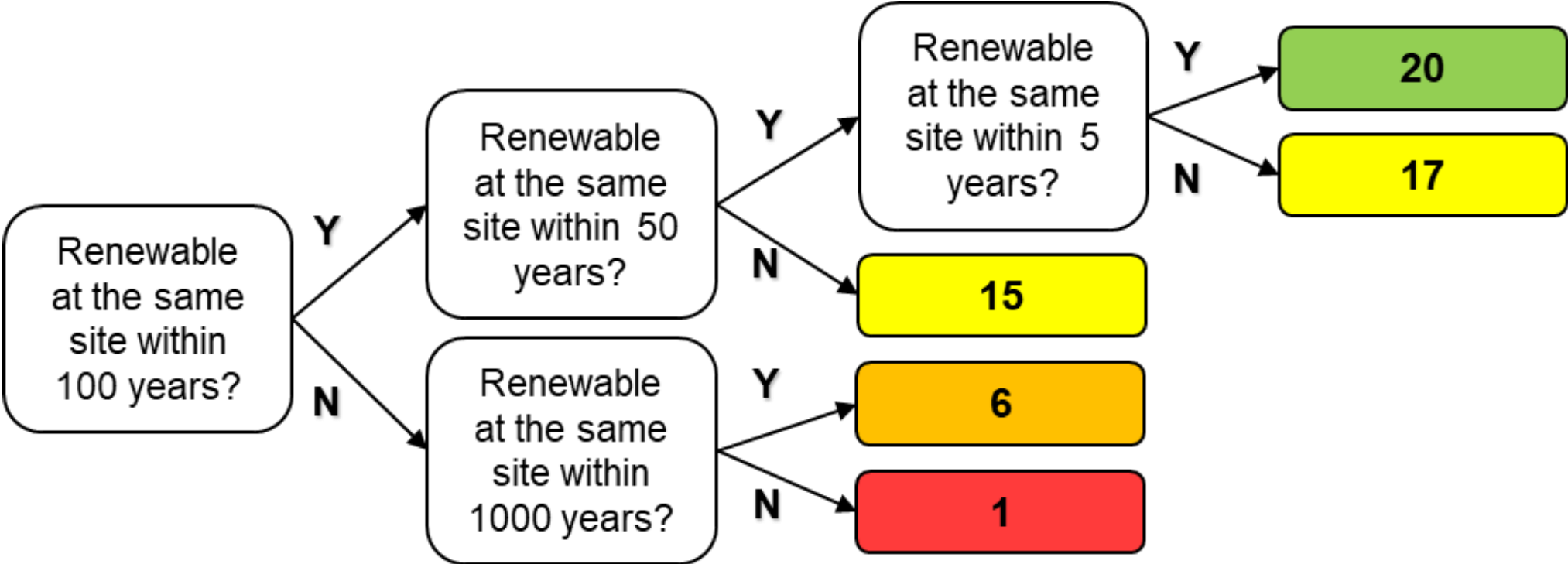
# 7 Measurements

- 5. Pollution** – It is important to minimise the amount of pollution to the environment through the manufacturing process.
- 6. Resource Use Efficiency** – Assesses the amount of waste generated and what efforts are taken to minimise waste.
- 7. Renewability** – This assesses the amount of time it takes to replace the resource used.

It does not consider fertilisers, or any other ingredients used in small quantities.



# Decision Tree



# Substrate Scores

<b>Energy Use</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Water Use</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Social Compliance</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Habitat &amp; Biodiversity</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Renewability</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Resource Use Efficiency</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Substrate Calculator Score</b>	<b>86</b>

COIR SCORING EXAMPLE.

# Growing Media Scores

	Peat	Anerobic Digestate	Green Compost
Energy Use	14	14	14
Water Use	18	20	18
Social Compliance	15	11	11
Habitat & Biodiversity	0	16	20
Pollution	12	12	12
Resource Use Efficiency	15	14	15
Renewability	1	20	20
Substrate Score	75	107	110
Mix	40%	30%	30%
Product Score	95	B	

MULTIPURPOSE COMPOST PRODUCT EXAMPLE

A	>101
B	93-100.9
C	85.92.9
D	77-84.9
E	<77

RESPONSIBILITY INDEX.

# As seen on pack



### RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

We are actively working on improving the responsible sourcing profile of our compost mixes year on year. Southern Trident compost contains materials that are carefully processed to help you grow plants that will improve the environment and make the world a more beautiful place.



The horticulture industry is working together to create responsibly sourced composts and soil mixes which have minimal impact on the environment.

INGREDIENTS:  
CDBL

Grade A demonstrates the lowest impact to the environment while Grade E has the highest impact. For further information, please visit: [responsiblesourcing.ltd.org.uk](http://responsiblesourcing.ltd.org.uk)

### RESPONSIBLE SOURCING



For further information, scan the QR code or visit: [responsiblesourcing.ltd.org.uk](http://responsiblesourcing.ltd.org.uk)

We are committed to manufacture our compost as responsibly as possible. The materials used in our mixes ensure you will have the best performing compost with as little impact as possible on the environment.



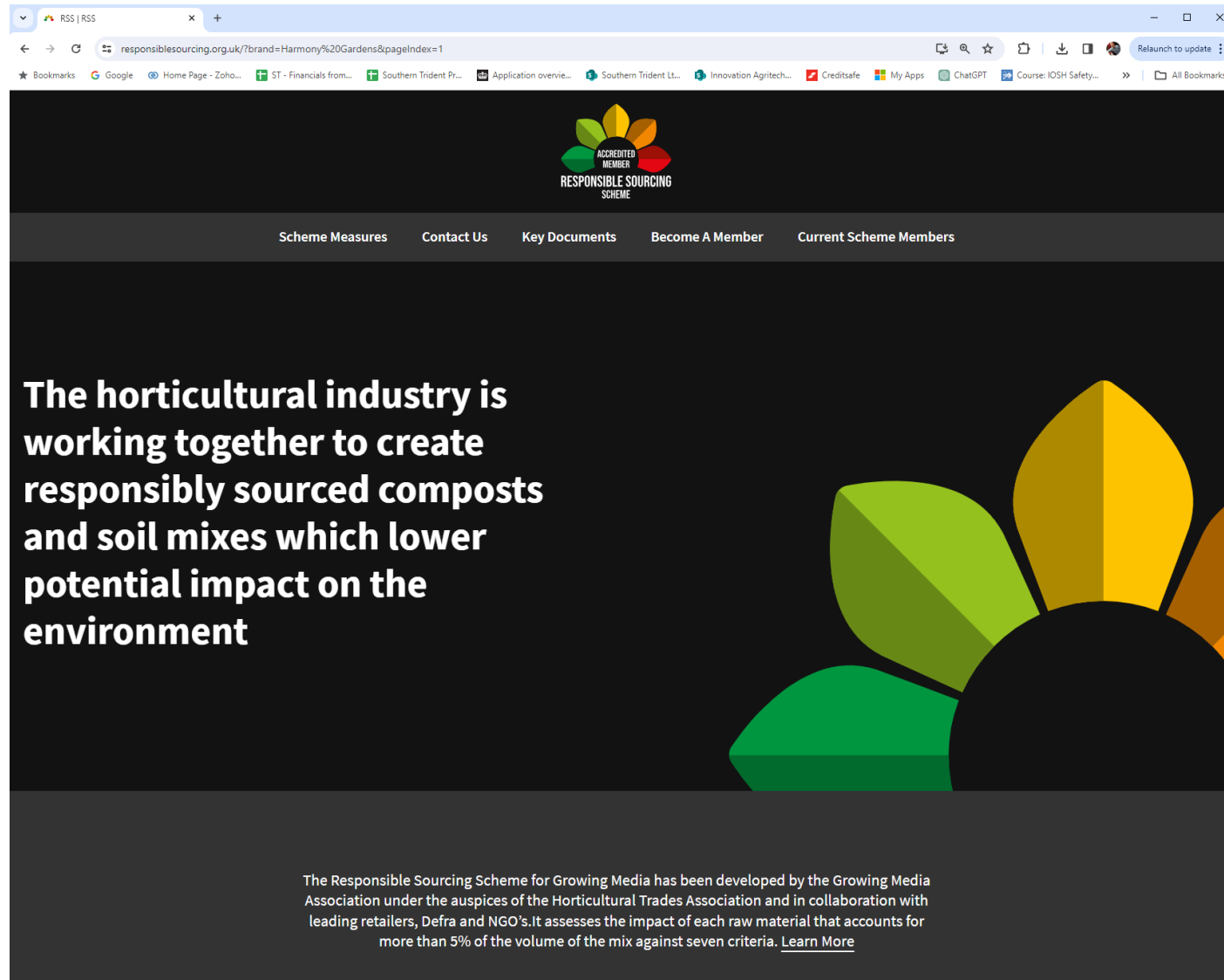
### FLORIST Large Hanging Basket

£10

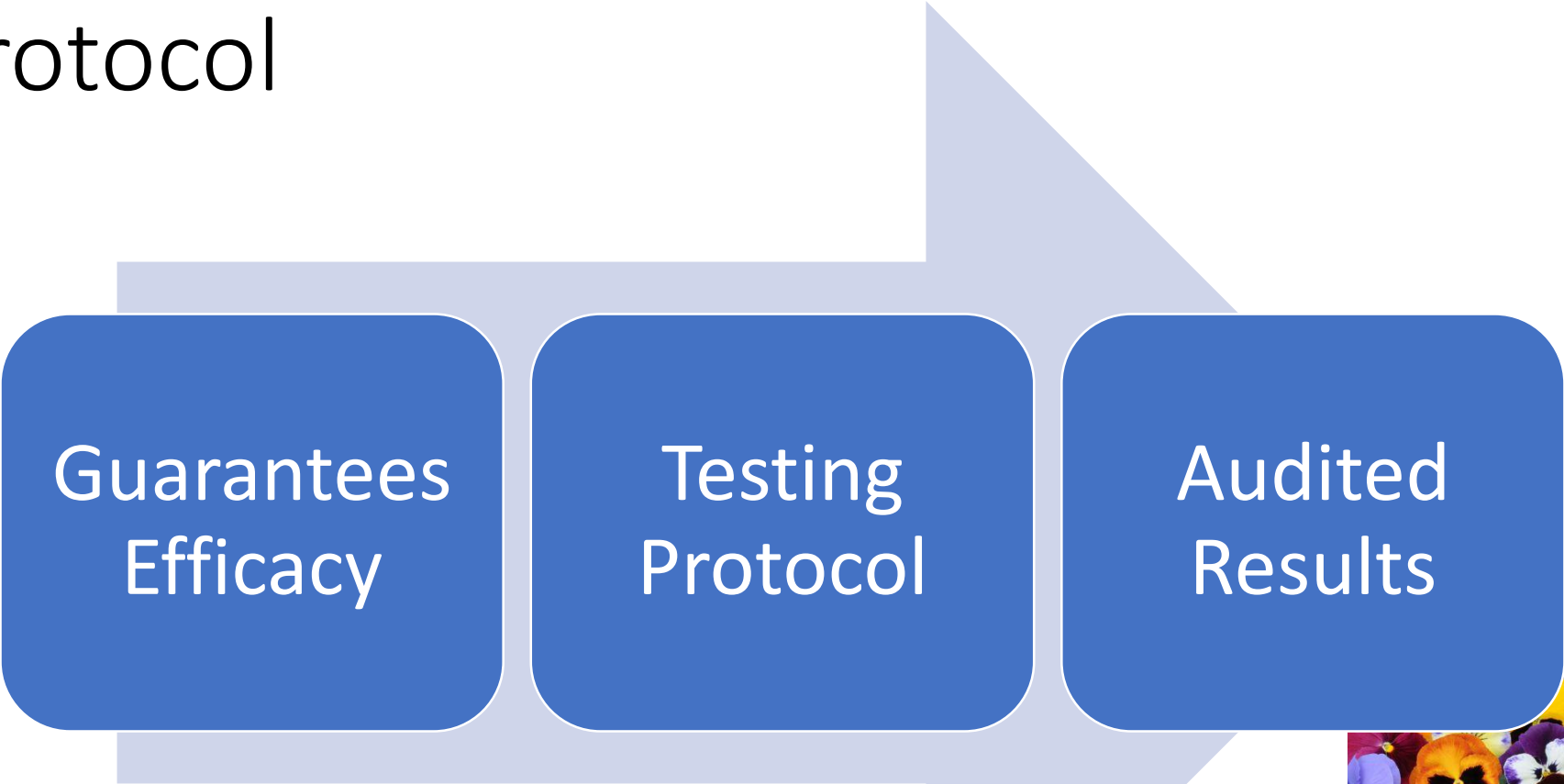


MEMBER  
RESPONSIBLE SOURCING SCHEME

# www.responsiblesourcing.org.uk



# P7 Protocol



# P7 Protocol

- To develop a performance standard for multi-purpose compost
- Adopted 2018
- Industry trials 2022-23
  - 17 manufacturers
- Part of the audit process 2024

## Growing trial methodology for performance standard for amateur growing media- DEFRA P7-adopted methodology

### Objective

Following on from the DEFRA White paper in 2011 work packages were established. Of these work packages the following project was determined: P7 Performance standards for amateur products. The aim was to produce a performance standard, initially, for multipurpose growing media with other products to be included during later phases of the project.

The method below is based on the EN standard: EN16086-1:2011, with minor adaptations. It was agreed through earlier work to use tomato (Shirley F1), and petunia (F1 other than 'white') as the test species.

### Method to be followed:

According to the EN method:

A 100% peat control will be used throughout. A medium grade peat (such as 0-12mm grade) will be used for potting on of the plants as control, which will be lime adjusted to a pH range of 5.5-6.0 and have a standard base fertiliser, (such as 15-10-20 TE) added at 1.5 g/l. Note the fertiliser is as suggested in the EN method. Wetting agent added as per normal procedure.

*[It is recommended that one of the GMA members involved in the testing and audit process agree on an annual basis to manufacture 1m<sup>3</sup> of the control mix which is then sent to other members for them to use as the control for that coming years trials.]*

**Note:-** 5 litres of the control substrate and the MP used in the test will be bagged up and kept for 12months from the test, should there be a need for a repeat test after an audit.

### Test procedure and crops:

Replicates: 5 pots X 3reps of the test material (e.g. Multi-purpose compost submitted for responsible sourcing audit)

Saucers will be used for all pots as in the EN method.

Control: 5 pots X 3reps

Trial is to be randomized on a bench, using lights if required.

### Tomatoes (Shirley F1)

Tomato seeds (Shirley F1) are to be sown into cellular modular trays (1cmx1cm) in a peat based seeding substrate.

Seedlings at first true leaf stage, one per pot, are then pricked off into pots (9cm/3inch dia) filled with the test material, (Multi-Purpose compost submitted for the responsible sourcing audit). A [peat based](#) control will be used - See above.

### Petunia plugs (F1, preferably not white)

Plugs, one per pot, are then inserted into pots (9cm/3" dia) filled with the test material, (Multi-Purpose compost submitted for the responsible sourcing audit). A [peat based](#) control will be used - See above.

Watering: according to the EN method this will be done in respect of the plant requirement to meet good practice. Watering only no liquid feeding to be used as we are evaluating the product itself.

Glasshouse conditions: 20 by day and min of 16 by night.

Lights: as required



# Benefits for Grower and Retailers

- Study of 16,000 shoppers revealed
  - 83% of consumers consider sustainability as a key buying decision factor
  - 91% of online shoppers prioritise sustainability
  - Spend 4% more than average shoppers

ESW.



Good Business

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Responsible Commerciality

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# Thank You

Steve Harper

e: [steve@southerntrident.com](mailto:steve@southerntrident.com)

m: 07721 849677