



# Growing in Peat-free

By Matthew Skinner



TRAY A

TRAY B





# About me..

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- Currently I am responsible for sales at Newey Roundstone
- Previously, 7 years experience for 2 major growing media companies selling specific substrate recipes to the commercial and retail sector
- During this time we developed and improved the peat diluents and peat replacement materials
- With success in even the most challenging crops from plug production to Poinsettia's







# Newey Roundstone

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- 190,000,000 Young Plants per year
- 82,000,000 Retail Ready Plants per year
- Peat usage in 2013
  - 13,400,000 Litres
- Peat usage in 2016
  - 4,850,000 Litres
- **Reduction of 8.5M Litres (65%)**







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- Kingfisher aim to be Net positive
  - What does this mean?
    - Having a positive impact on People & Communities
    - Be restorative to the environment
    - Become carbon positive
    - Waste nothing
    - Create wealth



# The evolution...

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# Easy Grow bedding plant system

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- Jiffy grow block
- 100% Coir
- PLA Biodegradable netting







The expansion process



# Growing in Coir

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- Benefits
  - Stable substrate if thoroughly composted
  - High air content
  - Easily re-saturated
  - Water air content perfect for root development
  - Organic origin, recyclable after use



# Growing in Coir

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- Challenges
  - Can be inconsistent if not aged
  - Higher usage of water, 30% more than peat media
  - Crucial to be fully wet at expansion stage
  - More expensive
  - Shelf life issues for the retailer



# Sustainable or Responsible?

Sheet Id	Material	Vol.	Energy	Water	Social Compliance	Habitat & Biodiversity	Pollution	Renewability	Resource Use Efficiency	Material Totals	
										un-weighted	weighted
Material 1	Wood-Based	20.0%	8	16	13	15	20	17	15	104	21
Material 2	Bark	20.0%	14	20	11	15	20	17	15	112	22
Material 3	Green Compost	20.0%	16	20	20	20	20	20	15	131	26
Material 4	Coir	20.0%	10	5	13	12	8	20	15	83	17
Material 5	Peat	20.0%	12	20	19	15	20	1	8	95	19
Material 6											
Material 7											
Material 8											
Totals * :		100.0	12	16.2	15.2	15.4	17.6	15	13.6		105

18 - 20

Good

12 - 17

Standard

6 - 11

Be aware

0 - 5

Critical



# Trials are crucial...

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TRAY A

TRAY B





## TRAY B - Peat free

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# Questions

Acknowledgments - Adas, Defra, Bulrush Horticulture and Jiffy