

# Press Release

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## Merseyside companies lead the way in developing green compost market

**The challenge to reduce dependence on peat compost has been taken up by three of Merseyside's largest plant nurseries. An extensive range of green waste compost trials are underway led by The Clean Merseyside Centre – the market development organisation for recyclable materials on Merseyside. The trials aim to demonstrate the commercial viability of green waste compost and put Merseyside companies in a favourable position to meet the demands of major retailers such as B&Q and Homebase.**

The pressure is on with major retailers setting high targets for peat replacements. Peat is currently the primary growing media used within professional and amateur horticulture.

The trials, which will run until May 2003, involve three commercial nurseries on Merseyside - Thingwall Nurseries, Porters Horticulture Limited and Ivan Ambrose Limited. Each trial has used a variety of different compost mixes, with initial results indicating that with further testing green waste compost could successfully replace peat and provide a more environmentally sensitive and commercially viable product.

The green waste compost used during the trials was supplied by Beeva Field Management, a Merseyside based company. Janet Langton of Beeva explains the value of the green waste compost; *"We have been producing green waste compost for more than ten years. The product is great and has a lot of potential as long as it is made properly. Our green waste compost diverts between 200–300 tonnes of waste from landfill on Merseyside each month."*

The trials are part of an on-going programme by the Clean Merseyside Centre to demonstrate the benefits and limitations of using green waste compost and to support local companies.

*"Environmentally and commercially we have a real challenge ahead. The good news is that nurseries on Merseyside are taking up the challenge and responding to supply chain pressures. Plant nurseries are under pressure to find alternatives and that's where we can help. These products have huge potential as a peat substitute and environmentally have the added benefit of reducing the volume of waste going..."*

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*...to landfill on Merseyside. These trials are vital in demonstrating to the horticulture industry and all those involved in waste reduction and recycling that green waste compost is the future of sustainable growing”* said Helen DeLemos, Manager, Clean Merseyside Centre.

Helen DeLemos, Manager, Clean Merseyside Centre explains the Centre’s dual role *“The Clean Merseyside Centre’s role is to provide support and expertise to encourage growers of nursery plants to give green waste compost a go and by doing so begin to stimulate the market for recyclable materials. Merseyside has an opportunity to get ahead of the game and lead the way in developing new products at the forefront of this new market.”*

Further results from the on-going trials are expected shortly. For more information on the green compost trials, please contact the CMC on Tel: 0151 708 9533 or email [contact@clean-merseyside.com](mailto:contact@clean-merseyside.com)

For media enquiries or to request photography please contact: Chris Dessent, Creative Concern on Tel: **0161 907 37 32**, mobile: **07966 252 461**.

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **COMPOST**

Over 1/3 of domestic waste can be composted. Composting is carried out by microbes called bacteria and fungi. These microscopic organisms convert organic materials into a soil like material that we call compost.

#### **WASTE FACTS**

- An average person throws away 74 kg of organic waste each year.
- About a third of household waste is kitchen and garden waste.
- In Britain we produce enough rubbish to fill Trafalgar Square to the top of Nelson's Column every day.

#### **PEAT USAGE**

Professional horticulture utilises over one million cubic metres of peat a year and through the retail outlets more than two million cubic metres are used.

The Clean Merseyside Centre is supported by:

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