



John B. Dockrell Ltd t/a Dockrells



As one of the Irelands largest growers of outdoor salads, using in excess of 10 million blocks annually, John Dockrell Ltd. is concerned with the planning permission and licencing requirements for the harvesting of peat in Ireland.

The following are some of the grounds why it is vital for the vegetable sector that 100% peat based composts should continue to be available for vegetable propagation in Ireland:

- It breaks down naturally in the soil and doesn't leave a residue
- Peat is essential in the carrying of biology, nutrition's and trace elements to the plant.
- Peat holds moisture and reduces the amount of irrigation required.
- It is a natural product.
- As an Irish product it will:
 - Reduce imports
 - Reduce carbon foot print
 - Give the industry control over propagation
 - Reduce threat of importing diseases and pests.
- The lack of any good alternative with the same characteristics.
- The relatively small amount of peat used in the vegetable sector.

Therefore it is essential to the vegetable sector that the harvesting of peat be exempted from the planning process while continuing to be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

This will ensure the environment is protected not only where peat is harvested but also where it is used.

Yours sincerely