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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2026)

The EU Ecolabel criteria¹ are based on the best environmental performance of products available on the European Economic Area (EEA) market at the moment of their adoption. The criteria are developed and revised in consultation with key stakeholders, in accordance with Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 on the EU Ecolabel². They are based on scientific data and information covering the entire life cycle of products.

In the specific case of the EU Ecolabel criteria for growing media and soil improvers³, adopted in 2022, relevant information on the revision process can be found in the Final Technical Report on the revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for growing media and soil improvers⁴. This Report sets out the rationale for the exclusion of intentionally added peat as a component of the products, namely because ‘it affects valuable habitats for wildlife and contributes to the emission of sequestered carbon into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change’ (page 25 onwards for further information).

The EU Ecolabel criteria are revised periodically to ensure that they remain up to date, robust and reliable, while also taking account of technical innovation and market developments. Therefore, at the time of the next revision of the criteria for growing media and soil improvers, the most recent relevant scientific evidence and stakeholders’ views will be considered.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy-topics/oldeu-ecolabel/eu-ecolabel-product-groups-and-criteria_en.

² Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel, OJ L 27, 30.1.2010, pp. 1–19.

³ https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/green-business/eu-ecolabel/product-groups-and-criteria/gardening_en.

⁴ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC129683>.