

2019 Annual Review

Looking to the Future

2019 left Garden Organic well positioned to face the future with an increased focus on our core charitable aims of getting more people growing and gardening organically. The General Election result at the end of the year, giving the Conservative party a substantial majority, and the formal exit from the EU, has provided a sense of stability in terms of public policy expectations. We will continue to argue for the maintenance of current organic standards and the existing organic frameworks which support and underpin organic practice, particularly when under threat of compromise from potential trade deals.

Increasing numbers of indicators are showing a significant number of people who are concerned about artificial inputs into growing, whether in the food they buy or the food they grow at home, and that awareness is increasing. Sales of organic seeds, plants and garden supplies are moving strongly ahead – our own Organic Gardening Catalogue, run in partnership with Dobies – has shown large increases in customers and sales, and this trend is likely to continue. We will, as always, promote organic horticultural practices and product ranges as appropriate for organic and non-organic growers alike.

We expect our current campaign – For Peat's Sake - to raise awareness of the ongoing use of peat in growing media to continue through 2020 and beyond. We will push for changes so the make-up of composts we can buy can be entirely peat-free for improved sustainability.

As we move into the future, we can all be assured that the charity will continue to represent organic growers, will encourage and support those converting to organic practice, and press policy-makers and legislators to acknowledge and act on the views and values of the millions of growers and gardeners across the UK who want a kinder, gentler and more sustainable environment for future generations to inherit.