



BOVERTON NURSERIES LTD,

MILL ROAD, BOVERTON,

LLANTWIT MAJOR,

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Method statements

Whilst conducting its activities Boverton nurseries will strive to minimise any disturbance to the local and global environment and to the quality of life of the local communities.

Boverton Nurseries will strive to maintain the appearance of its premises to the highest practical standards.

We will strive to conserve resources, particularly those that are scarce or non-renewable.

We will attempt to assess, in advance where possible, the environmental effect of any significant new development of the nurseries activities and will amend its codes of environmental practice accordingly.

We will attempt to recycle all plastic trays and pots supplied to our customers – currently we have returns of around 85% and we can actually reuse in the region of 90%.

This is now our eighth year of reusing plastic rather than ending up in landfill.

We have been growing significant amounts of bedding in peat free and will offer all customers a peat free alternative growing media if required as well as a peat price, however all peat we use is taken from Non SSSI's. The compost used for hanging baskets and troughs contains a swell gel type water retainer as well as a surfactant that ensures rapid absorption of water even when completely dried out. Also the baskets and trough compost contains a long-term feed which will prolong the plant quality, however we still suggest regular feeding.

At the end of the season old compost and plants are bagged up and sent to a garden centre that composts and mixes the material for topsoil dressing.

We also use recycled sheep's wool liners for the wire baskets, rather than stripping the environment of moss, which are environmentally friendly and also have a biodegradable plastic backing. The plastic is made from maize starch and this also retains water better. Wherever possible we purchase plugs as opposed to sowing as this reduces oversupply, waste, burning fossil fuels, and increased quality. We when we have to sow into heavy-duty reusable plastic trays which are emptied and sterilised then reused as opposed to ending up in landfills.

All the empty plastic bags that contain the compost and plastic that is unusable are bagged and recycled – Farm assurance and cross compliance certificates are issued.

We have our own vehicle which is a small transit type vehicle which can carry a maximum of seven trolleys of plants however we hire a 7.5T cargo type vehicle, which we have an operators licence for. Also we hire small transit type vehicles as required. Deliveries take place on a first come first served basis however we closely liaise with all our clients and being flexible we deliver to all clients as per their requirements even on weekends and bank holidays as requested. We will within reason speed up or even slow down deliveries if space our other issues are a concern and we can at short notice supply additional bedding if additional beds or damage has occurred. All baskets and troughs are delivered on Danish trolleys wherever practical and all vehicles are fitted with tail lifts to allow safe operation. All vehicles are weighed using a weighbridge to accurately determine the most economic and legal loading of the vans.

Please note that it is impossible to deliver round bottomed baskets safely without damage as they roll around and all clients who have purchased these are warned prior to planting, purchase etc, and that these will be declared exempt from any claims due to damage caused in transit.

Our nursery is always open to visits from our clients to view their crops also we welcome them to view other local authority crops as it is an opportunity to view new plants and also other authorities ideas. All clients are regularly informed via email and

regular phone calls of how their plants/ baskets are growing. Three to four weeks prior to any delivery all parties are informed of an imminent delivery and suitable date agreed. As the plants are grown specifically for you an estimated delivery week is agreed at the time of winning a contract. As we are flexible, and it has happened in the past, we can within reason reschedule a delivery however plants will grow according to the weather which is beyond our control and once the weather breaks it is impossible to slow them up. If problems do occur due then clients are informed immediately and arrangements made which are mutually beneficial to both parties.

90% of all the plugs we buy are from companies, which use heavy-duty trays that are reused. They are all bar-coded and then returned on the next loads back to the correct companies where they are cleaned and reused.

All the compost used is not taken from SSSI's but removed from environmentally sound peat bogs. We use a minimum amount of fuel for heating the premises to reduce the impact of global warming. We use a minimum amount of pesticides and other chemicals and would rather put up with a minor pest and disease infestation. The chemicals we usually try to use are more natural chemicals such as "orosorb" which is an oil extracted from oranges or "bio max forte" an oil derived from coconuts and all possess fungicidal properties and also have instant knockdown on biting/ sucking insects and it is completely safe and requires no personal protective equipment when applying. The use of plant hormones on the nursery is virtually nil, as most of the plants we actively promote from S&G have been bred for their compactness and spreading ability. Also by buying plugs they would have already been treated elsewhere with the required rates of hormone where applicable.

The majority of plants are planted mechanically by a state of the art transplanter which reduces damage to the seedlings during pricking out and enables more accurate growing as plants can be planted at the correct time rather than relying on sowing dates.

As in previous years we openly advise and help promote the Wales in Bloom competition and as we deal with virtually every authority in Southern Wales we can help

with the aid of photos more accurately show what does and doesn't work. Also with Green flag we can help out as the products we use and supply are delivered and supplied in the most environmentally economic way. We always closely liaise with clients informing them of new and upcoming plants and ideas to improve quality of bedding and reduce waste. We have close links with a number of the judges of the Wales in bloom and liaise with them to advise our clients of what is required.

We take great pride in supplying to the best of our ability the best quality plants and baskets. We grow all our own plants and don't rely on outside contractors. We purchase plugs wherever possible which are mechanically planted and this will further improve overall quality. The compost we use is a professional compost that is specially graded for professional growing. Planting records are kept so that if a plant is too large or too small one year then we know it has to be planted accordingly the following. All the plants are grown in a low nitrogen based compost so we can control the growth and plant quality. The plants are fed via a liquid feed which is directly injected into the irrigation systems and various feeds can be used to stimulate growth or slow growth as required. If high nitrogen composts are used then there is no control of plant growth and also many plants will grow large green and soft and will produce a poor amount of flowers. To control the plants further we incorporate the DIF method where we drop the temperature and this suppresses plant height. As for hardening the plants off we will move a number of plants outside depending on time and weather, however once the weather improves we leave full vent on throughout the day and night to harden off.