

THE BUSINESS OF SELLING FLOWERS

Module 9: Carbon Footprint worksheet

Practical areas to reduce your carbon footprint: A checklist

This is not an exhaustive checklist, but is a starting point for the likely areas where we can start to improve our choices. Make your own plans and targets around these prompts, or add your own:

1. Plastics - Reusing and recycling (where possible), sourcing from suppliers who don't use plastic, mending, Including buckets, covers, modules, trays etc etc
2. All chemicals - Fertilizers (especially chemically produced ones), cleaning products esp bleach, disinfectants, flower food, Reduce use, find less damaging alternatives
3. Treatments - e.g. pesticides, herbicides - inc some unofficial uses eg salt, Jeyes fluid. Reduce, look for alternatives. If you do use them, be aware and use them responsibly, to cause minimal impact on non-target species. Check how products act and whether it might have an impact on other non-target species.
4. Composts - peat free if possible, without chemical fertilisers and pesticides if possible. Reduce what you use by using soil blocks, small modules and getting timing better. If bringing in mulches, try to source waste or recycled compost, preferably herbicide free. Not topsoil.
5. Water - use carefully and target it to where it is most needed. Use drip lines, not overhead watering. Collect rain water and recycle.
6. Power - minimise use of heat - using heated benches, not air heat. Do you really need a chiller?
7. Plants/bulbs/seed - can you source untreated, local products? Most will have been treated with pesticides, sometimes fungicides, unless they state otherwise. Opt for untreated if you can. Save and propagate your own.
8. Machinery, vehicles - minimise use, care for them to keep them efficient.
9. Tools, equipment, clothing - care for them, repair, buy for longevity.
10. Floristry - Opt for recyclable wrapping, re-useable vases. Reduce or eliminate floral foam and petrochemical cellophane.
11. Soil - look after your soil. Add organic matter, keep it covered, keep it growing. Disturb it as little as possible. Keep it healthy and balanced.