

Flowers & Sustainability - Horsham Eco Churches 31.1.26

Flowers & Floral Foam

- ❖ Until the 1970s flowers came from British farms, today from Holland, Columbia, Ecuador and Kenya flown to flower auctions in Holland.
- ❖ Often heated to grow, use vast amounts of water and pesticides.
- ❖ Refrigerated storage and transport, sprayed with preservatives, a huge carbon & chemical footprint.
- ❖ Some producers are Fairtrade, many are not.
- ❖ Floral foam is green water absorbing, single use foam, a non-recyclable petroleum derived plastic by-product.
- ❖ Floral foam is non-compostable; it takes 400 to 500 years to break down into smaller and smaller microplastic pieces.

Floral Foam Research

- Toxic compounds leached into surrounding water.
- Consuming foam and being exposed to that water harmed marine and freshwater animals.
- Bio Floral Foam biodegrades within 2-3 years in ideal landfill conditions, but this microplastic leached even more toxic compounds!
- Sieve floral foam water through tight weave fabric, pour into a hole in the ground, to avoid contaminating water and food chains.
- Research article - Foaming at the mouth: Ingestion of floral foam microplastics by aquatic animals.

<https://sciedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969719358218>

You could choose to

- ❖ Use seasonal, locally grown, British or Fairtrade flowers.
- ❖ Plants potted in peat free compost, pre-loved artificial flowers.
- ❖ Other containers, chicken wire, twig frameworks, flower frogs & moss.
- ❖ Grow shrubs, plants and flowers for flower arranging.
- ❖ Save money and free up floral foam storage areas for other uses.

Church Flowers and Sustainability Resources and Case Studies

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources/buildings>

Sustainable Church Flowers

<https://suschurchflowers.com>

Find Seasonal UK Flowers From the Farm

www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/find-flowers

Horsham Eco Churches

<https://horshamct.org.uk/eco-churches>



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