

WHAT ABOUT PEAT?

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER TO FIND OUT

WHAT IS IT?

- **Peat is organic matter** resulting from the growth and partial decomposition of vegetation, accumulating in water-saturated ecosystems called **peatlands**.
- Peatlands cover **119 million hectares** within Canada. The industry total footprint is less than **0.03%**.

WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

- **Peat is an unequalled growing media component** that provides 3 essential characteristics for plants: water retention, nutrient retention, and aeration.
- In North America, peat is extracted **almost exclusively for horticultural purposes**. The production of vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants and seedlings is what our products are most used for.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS

- In 2021, peat was harvested over **17,509 ha** in Canada. Around **50%** of the industry footprint was in production and **25% has been restored or reclaimed**.
- Ecological restoration of peatlands after peat extraction **ensures the return of the ecosystem's main ecological functions** such as biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- The latest research shows that the **annual carbon balance returns to values comparable to pristine peatlands** within 15 years following restoration.
- **80% of the Canadian peat production is certified under the Responsibly Managed Peatlands** certification – a SCS Global Veriflora® Certification.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

- The Canadian peat industry **provides nearly 2,500 direct jobs across the country**, in addition to indirect (2,200) and induced (1,900) jobs (FTE), mostly in rural areas across Canada.



THE SCIENCE

- **CSPMA has invested \$11M in \$20M worth of research projects since 1996**, focussing on the fields of peatland ecology, ecological restoration, and carbon emissions.
- A major result of 30 years of collaboration with the science community is the **development of the Moss Layer Transfer Technique (MLTT) by the Peatland Ecology Research Group**. This internationally renowned **peatland restoration protocol is an important pillar of the industry's responsible management practices**.

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