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CANADA

# THE PEAT INDUSTRY

## 1952



*Published by Authority of*  
The Right Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

### DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Industry and Merchandising Division  
Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Section

6502-568  
1-2-54

Price 25 cents

Vol. 1—Part I—L-1

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1954.



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### NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: Volume I — The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; Volume II — Manufacturing; Volume III — Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries which they comprise.

Volume I consists of the following parts:

- Part I — Mineral Statistics
- Part II — Forestry Statistics — Operations in the Woods
- Part III — Fisheries Statistics

Part I includes the following reports which constitute the complete series on Mineral Statistics of Canada. Individual reports are issued as the information becomes available; they are arranged in a form suitable for binding.

- A — General Review of the Mining Industry, 50¢
- B — The Gold Mining Industry, 50¢
- C — The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 25¢
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- K — The Gypsum Industry, 25¢
- L — The Peat Industry, 25¢
- M — The Salt Industry, 25¢
- N — The Talc and Soapstone Industry, 25¢
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- P — The Cement Manufacturing Industry, 25¢
- Q — The Clay and Clay Products Industry, 25¢
- R — The Lime Industry, 25¢
- S — The Sand and Gravel Industry, 25¢
- T — The Stone Industry, 25¢
- U — Contract Drilling in the Mining Industry, 25¢

(22/11/54)

Canada. D.B.S.

## THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1952

Shipments of peat moss by producers in 1952 amounted to 74,899 tons valued at \$2,443,765 (excluding the value of containers), compared with shipments of 76,809 tons valued at \$2,433,008 in 1951. In addition, 30 tons of peat fuel worth \$300 were shipped in 1952 for sale or for use by the producers. Exports of peat moss and other mosses during 1952 amounted to 68,276 tons valued at \$3,127,593.

The average number of employees in the industry was 1,042 who worked a total of 1,550,590 man-hours during 1952. The total of salaries and wages for the year was \$1,601,825. Fuel cost \$65,031 and 1,679,429 k.w.h. of purchased electricity cost \$32,640. Process supplies and containers cost \$835,269.

Peat occurs in nature in two distinct forms, unhumified and humified, which differ markedly in

physical properties and in chemical composition. Unhumified peat is the dead moss of the sphagnum plant, only slightly humified. It is fibrous, elastic, of light greyish green or yellowish to light brown colour, becoming somewhat darker on drying. It has an absorptive value of up to twenty-five times its own weight. It is used as a bedding litter for animals, for horticultural purposes, and as a filler for fertilizers. Because of its elasticity and low heat conductivity, it is used for insulating and sound-proofing and as a packing material.

Humified or fuel peat in its natural state is dark brown to black, colloidal, plastic, homogeneous, and somewhat elastic. It dries into a hard solid mass of a specific gravity higher than water. It has almost no absorptive value. Peat moss left in its natural state will humify in course of time and all fibrous matter eventually disappears.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Peat Industry, 1943-1952

Year	Number of		Number of em- ployees	Salaries and wages for year	Cost of fuel and electricity at works	Cost of process supplies and containers at works	Selling value of products f.o.b. shipping points <sup>1</sup>	Net <sup>2</sup> value of production
	Firms	Plants or bogs						
1943 .....	44	44	1,012	1,000,348	35,118	272,556	1,692,444	1,384,770
1944 .....	39	39	1,183	1,154,009	48,423	334,953	2,163,376	1,780,000
1945 .....	37	37	1,233	1,304,249	90,863	425,241	2,390,306	1,874,202
1946 .....	41	41	1,391	1,562,689	102,004	569,157	2,920,812	2,249,651
1947 .....	41	41	1,224	1,602,265	91,450	580,694	2,808,639	2,136,495
1948 .....	41	41	1,032	1,532,977	111,677	698,394	3,407,825	2,597,754
1949 .....	42	43	1,129	1,510,105	51,804	648,456	2,987,332	2,287,072
1950 .....	37	39	1,118	1,530,866	113,558	653,552	2,868,202	2,101,092
1951 .....	35	37	859	1,247,619	111,047	765,387	3,149,444	2,273,010
1952 .....	34	36	1,042	1,601,825	97,671	835,289	3,257,057	2,324,117

1. Includes packing materials and containers.

2. Gross selling value less cost of process supplies, containers, fuel and electricity.

## MINERAL STATISTICS

TABLE 2. Principal Statistics, by Provinces, 1951 and 1952

Province	Number of plants	Number of employees	Salaries and wages for year	Cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies and containers	Production		
					Peat sold or used by producers		Selling value f.o.b. works
					As fuel	Moss	
1951			\$	\$	tons	tons	\$
New Brunswick .....	3	71	64,586	42,583	—	4,588	198,204
Quebec .....	16	190	217,546	276,416	20	21,657	695,249
Ontario .....	3	24	25,835	10,402	30	1,804	80,342
Manitoba and Nova Scotia .....	2	27	48,487	24,182	—	1,813	80,806
British Columbia .....	13	547	891,165	477,851	—	46,947	2,094,843
Canada .....	37	859	1,247,619	831,434	50	76,809	3,149,444
1952							
New Brunswick .....	3	29	85,000	2,000	—	2,400	110,000
Quebec .....	15	248	270,432	19,219	—	19,609	703,945
Ontario .....	3	12	18,140	9,456	32	1,939	77,753
Manitoba and Nova Scotia .....	2	42	82,720	59,962	—	4,012	243,985
British Columbia .....	13	711	921,927	528,846	—	46,939	2,121,674
Canada .....	36	1,042	1,601,825	932,940	32	74,899	3,257,357

TABLE 3. Production of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and by Provinces, 1951 and 1952

Province	Peat fuel		Peat moss								
			For horticulture		For poultry and stable litter		For other uses		Total moss shipments		
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	<sup>1</sup>
1951											
New Brunswick .....	—	—	3,189	106,407	1,399	55,527	—	—	4,588	161,934	
Quebec .....	20	800	14,980	302,558	6,651	131,975	26	2,300	21,657	436,833	
Ontario .....	30	300	797	29,157	1,007	43,400	—	—	1,804	72,557	
Manitoba and Nova Scotia .....	—	—	706	20,088	1,107	41,566	—	—	1,813	61,654	
British Columbia .....	—	—	33,587	1,227,310	13,360	472,720	—	—	46,947	1,700,030	
Total .....	50	1,100	53,259	1,685,520	23,524	745,188	26	2,300	76,809	2,433,008	
1952											
New Brunswick .....	—	—	1,900	76,000	500	20,000	—	—	2,400	96,000	
Quebec .....	—	—	15,626	312,905	3,931	88,713	52	4,234	19,609	405,852	
Ontario .....	32	320	855	30,958	1,084	38,055	—	—	1,939	69,013	
Manitoba and Nova Scotia .....	—	—	1,459	55,103	2,553	132,391	—	—	4,012	187,494	
British Columbia .....	—	—	39,841	1,431,360	7,098	254,046	—	—	46,939	1,685,406	
Total .....	32	320	59,681	1,906,326	15,168	533,205	52	4,234	74,899	2,443,765	

1. Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$715,336 in 1951 and \$813,292 in 1952.

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1943-1952

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1943 .....	782	7,000	1948 .....	85	850
1944 .....	644	5,397	1949 .....	56	560
1945 .....	118	1,062	1950 .....	58	580
1946 .....	145	1,305	1951 .....	50	1,100
1947 .....	95	950	1952 .....	32	320

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1943-1952

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1943 .....	64,380	1,461,422	1948 .....	89,800	2,767,878
1944 .....	80,446	1,869,553	1949 .....	80,249	2,376,849
1945 .....	83,963	2,011,139	1950 .....	75,195	2,256,870
1946 .....	96,839	2,395,649	1951 .....	76,809	2,433,008
1947 .....	80,019	2,279,821	1952 .....	74,899	2,443,765

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss and Other Mosses, 1944-1952

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1944 .....	63,944	2,105,370	1949 .....	68,390	2,554,388
1945 .....	76,409	2,825,514	1950 .....	65,962	2,718,257
1946 .....	81,940	2,892,563	1951 .....	71,874	3,073,002
1947 .....	72,918	2,634,003	1952 .....	68,276	3,127,592
1948 .....	77,924	2,946,923			

Note. The weight of peat moss shipped varies greatly depending on the moisture content. Weight is used as a unit of measure of production (shipments) owing to the fact that Canadian moss is shipped in various forms, including bales, bags, pads, etc., and at present there is no general standardization in Canada as to size of these units.

TABLE 7. World Production of Peat, by Countries<sup>1</sup>, 1948-1951

(Taken from the "Minerals Yearbook" of the United States Bureau of Mines)

Country	1948	1949	1950	1951
(metric tons)				
Austria <sup>1</sup> .....	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Canada:				
Agricultural use .....	81,465	72,800	68,215 <sup>2</sup>	71,538
Fuel .....	77	51	53 <sup>2</sup>	18
Denmark .....	3,616,860	1,416,406	901,802	2,013,932
Finland:				
Agricultural use .....	17,188	18,650 <sup>1</sup>	7,000	
Fuel .....	197,659	178,538	197,000	
France .....	37,344	60,000 <sup>1</sup>	60,000 <sup>1</sup>	60,000 <sup>1</sup>
Germany:				
East Germany <sup>1</sup> .....	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
West Germany .....	2,038,000	1,203,266	1,120,000 <sup>1</sup>	423,400 <sup>3</sup>
Hungary .....	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Iceland .....	3,400	2,500 <sup>1</sup>	3,000 <sup>1</sup>	2,000 <sup>1</sup>
Ireland <sup>1</sup> .....	3,846,800	4,079,400	2,680,300	4,000,000
Netherlands .....	966,000	779,000	527,600 <sup>2</sup>	641,000
Norway:				
Agricultural use .....	20,000 <sup>1</sup>	20,000 <sup>1</sup>	24,500	25,300
Fuel .....	343,130	381,659	360,743	329,618 <sup>2</sup>
Portugal .....	1,529	266	402	—
Spain .....	1,267	869	4,952	4,410
Sweden:				
Agricultural use .....	108,533	106,269	100,000 <sup>1</sup>	100,000 <sup>1</sup>
Fuel .....	363,794	94,191	100,000 <sup>1</sup>	250,000 <sup>1</sup>
Switzerland .....	4	4	4	4
U.S.S.R. <sup>1</sup> .....	32,000,000	36,000,000	44,000,000	44,000,000
United States .....	117,553	117,509	118,589	176,370
<b>Total (estimate)</b> .....	<b>44,000,000</b>	<b>45,000,000</b>	<b>51,000,000</b>	<b>53,000,000</b>

1. Estimate.

2. Revised figure.

3. Including 280,959 tons for agricultural use.

4. Negligible.

TABLE 8. Employees and Their Earnings in the Peat Industry, 1951 and 1952

	Number of employees			Number of man-hours of labour	Earnings		
	Adminis- trative and office	Workmen	Total		Adminis- trative and office	Workmen	Total
1951					\$	\$	\$
Nova Scotia .....	11	87	98		19,880	93,193	113,073
New Brunswick and Manitoba ....							
Quebec .....	5	185	190		5,219	212,327	217,546
Ontario .....	3	21	24		5,130	20,705	25,835
British Columbia.....	38	509	547		101,181	789,984	891,165
Canada .....	57	802	859	1,295,177	131,410	1,116,209	1,247,619
1952							
Nova Scotia .....	6	65	71		11,455	156,265	167,720
New Brunswick and Manitoba ....							
Quebec .....	6	242	248		7,842	262,590	270,432
Ontario .....	3	9	12		6,425	11,715	18,140
British Columbia.....	36	675	711		139,982	1,005,551	1,145,533
Canada .....	51	991	1,042	1,550,590	165,704	1,436,121	1,601,825

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1951 and 1952

Month	1951				1952				Total	
	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	At bogs		At dressing plants		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Number										
January .....	242	3	206	13	464	119	3	229	18	369
February.....	235	4	252	14	505	292	6	288	20	606
March .....	284	4	261	15	564	358	3	275	15	651
April.....	324	5	299	9	637	408	3	315	21	747
May.....	403	7	285	9	704	790	101	294	6	1,191
June .....	1,052	174	219	8	1,453	1,243	174	252	12	1,681
July.....	1,367	158	246	8	1,779	1,539	185	391	28	2,143
August .....	621	40	259	6	926	1,381	63	264	18	1,726
September.....	485	14	223	20	742	629	24	246	28	927
October.....	441	18	207	17	683	383	27	192	19	621
November.....	274	3	188	18	483	250	12	214	9	485
December.....	291	3	241	15	550	237	3	195	18	453
Average .....	507	39	243	13	802	648	54	271	18	991

## Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1952

Name of firm	Head office address	Location of bog or plant
<b>Nova Scotia:</b>		
Annapolis Valley Peat Moss Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Berwick.....	Berwick
<b>New Brunswick:</b>		
Atlantic Peat Moss Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	2005 McGill College, Montreal, Quebec .....	Gloucester
Fafard Peat Moss Co. <sup>1</sup> .....	Shippegan .....	Shippegan
Western Peat Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 699, New Westminster, British Columbia	Shippegan
<b>Quebec:</b>		
Beausejour Peat Moss <sup>1</sup> .....	St. Romuald .....	St. Lambert
Boulanger & Frères <sup>1</sup> .....	St-Fabien .....	Rimouski
Bourque & Fils <sup>2</sup> .....	St-Marc des Carrières .....	St-Marc des Carrières
R. & B. Moss & Peat Products <sup>1</sup> .....	73 Joffre St., Sherbrooke .....	Waterville
Michaud, J.F.A <sup>1</sup> .....	Isle Verte .....	Isle Verte
Premier Peat Moss Producers Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Rivière-du-Loup .....	Cacouna, Isle Verte, Rivière-du-Loup
Quebec Peat Moss Co. <sup>1</sup> .....	St. Guillaume d'Upton .....	St. Bonaventure
Roy, Ernest <sup>1</sup> .....	St-Fabien .....	St-Fabien
Roy, Romeo <sup>1</sup> .....	St-Ulric .....	St-Ulric
Saguenay Peat Moss Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	365, rue Racine Est, Chicoutimi .....	Bagot Tp.
Senneterre Peat & Moss Mines Ltd. <sup>2</sup> .....	Senneterre.....	Senneterre
Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd. <sup>4</sup> .....	600 Dorchester St. W., Montreal .....	Radnor Tp.
Tourbières Rivière-Ouelle, Les 1.....	Ste-Anne de la Pocatière .....	Rivière-Ouelle
Tourbière de Pointe-au-Père <sup>1</sup> .....	Mont Joli.....	Pointe-au-Père
Tourbière de St-Fabien <sup>1</sup> .....	St-Fabien .....	St-Fabien
Tourbière de Rivière Blanche <sup>1</sup> .....	Rivière Blanche.....	Matane Co.
Tourbière du Nord, La, Enrg. <sup>2</sup> .....	Les Escoumains .....	Saguenay
<b>Ontario:</b>		
Artic Peat Moss Corp. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	200 Scientific Bldg., Winnipeg, Manitoba ...	Crozier
Humar Corporation, Ltd. <sup>3</sup> .....	Suite 1010, 100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto ...	Beverley Tp.
Leasa Peat Works <sup>1,4</sup> .....	12 Rankin St., Stratford .....	Ellice Tp.
<b>Manitoba:</b>		
Western Peat Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	New Westminster, British Columbia .....	Moss Spur
<b>British Columbia:</b>		
Acme Peat Products Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	789 W. Pender St., Vancouver.....	Lulu Island
Atkins & Durbrow Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	525 Seymour St., Vancouver .....	Ladner
Byrneroad Peat Farm <sup>1</sup> .....	2707 McKay Ave., New Westminster .....	Burnaby South
Blundell Peat Co. Ltd. .....	806 No. 6 Road, Vancouver.....	No. 6 Road
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	736 Granville St., Vancouver .....	Pitt Meadows
Columbia Products Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 699, New Westminster .....	Lulu Island
Excelsior Peat Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	3495 Marvin Drive, South Burnaby .....	Burnaby
Industrial Peat Co. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 329, New Westminster .....	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	R.R. 2, Vancouver .....	Lulu Island
Northern Peat Moss Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	R.R. 2, Vancouver .....	Lulu Island
North American Peat .....	10th & Alma, Vancouver.....	Burnaby
Richmond Peat Products Limited <sup>1</sup> .....	R.R. No. 3, Vancouver.....	Lulu Island
Western Peat Co. Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 699, New Westminster .....	Lulu Island

1. Produces moss.
2. Active but no shipments made.
3. Produces humus.
4. Produces peat fuel.

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