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CANADA

THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1955



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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¢
- D — The Nickel-Copper Mining, Smelting and Refining Industry, 25¢
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THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1955

Producers of peat moss in Canada shipped 117,579 tons valued at \$3,485,287 (excluding the value of containers) in 1955. In the preceding year the comparative figures were 99,272 tons valued at \$3,018,622. There were no shipments of peat fuel in 1955. Exports of peat moss, Irish moss, etc., amounted to 102,997 tons valued at \$5,388,362. There were 39 bogs or plants operated by 36 firms.

The harvesting of peat moss is a seasonal occupation, thus, the number of persons employed varies widely from month to month. The average number of employees during 1955 was 1,180 to whom \$2,109,166 were distributed as salaries and wages. Fuel cost \$113,584 and 1,947,179 kwh. of purchased electricity cost \$51,912. Process supplies and containers cost \$1,184,589.

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 disappear.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Peat Industry, Significant Years, 1921-1955

Year	Estab- lish- ments	Employees	Earnings	Cost of fuel and electricity at works	Cost of process supplies and containers	Gross value of products shipped ¹ during year, including containers (f.o.b. works)	Net ² value of production
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1921							
1929							
1931							
1933							
1937							
1939							
1941	22	667	486,116	17,327	145	646,408	628,936
1944	39	1,183	1,154,009	48,423	334,953	2,163,376	1,780,000
1946	41	1,391	1,562,689	102,004	569,157	2,920,812	2,249,651
1949	43	1,129	1,510,105	51,804	648,456	2,987,332	2,287,072
1950	39	1,118	1,530,866	113,558	653,552	2,868,202	2,101,092
1951	37	859	1,247,619	111,047	765,387	3,149,444	2,273,010
1952	36	1,042	1,601,825	97,671	835,269	3,257,057	2,324,117
1953	36	955	1,579,715	118,127	866,870	3,432,093	2,447,096
1954	40	880	1,736,002	141,004	999,791	3,965,572	2,824,777
1955	39	1,180	2,109,166	165,496	1,184,589	4,651,411	3,301,326

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, 1954 and 1955

Province	Number of plants	Number of employees	Earnings	Cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies and containers	Production		
					Peat sold or used by producers		Selling value f.o.b. works ¹
					As fuel	Moss	
1954			\$	\$	tons	tons	\$
New Brunswick	3	134	160, 644	160, 899	—	9, 888	328, 705
Quebec	19	252	326, 807	325, 636	—	27, 784	1, 032, 481
Ontario	3	16	44, 909	11, 302	6	640	26, 589
Manitoba and Nova Scotia	2	39	124, 459	43, 647	—	3, 612	185, 639
British Columbia	13	439	1, 079, 183	599, 311	—	57, 348	2, 392, 158
Canada	40	880	1, 736, 002	1, 140, 795	6	99, 272	3, 963, 572
1955							
Nova Scotia	5	167	251, 845	134, 018	—	9, 330	367, 434
New Brunswick	18	320	473, 283	448, 624	—	32, 383	1, 051, 661
Quebec	3	92	208, 544	120, 985	—	10, 430	423, 416
Ontario	13	601	1, 175, 494	646, 458	—	65, 436	2, 808, 900
Canada	39	1, 180	2, 109, 166	1, 350, 085	—	117, 579	4, 651, 411

1. Includes value of containers.

TABLE 3. Production of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and by Provinces, 1954 and 1955

Province	Peat fuel		Peat moss							
			For horticulture		For poultry and stable litter		For other uses		Total moss shipments	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$ ¹
1954										
New Brunswick	—	—	8, 648	185, 419	1, 240	32, 002	—	—	9, 888	217, 421
Quebec	—	—	24, 442	640, 934	3, 254	84, 311	88	5, 005	27, 784	730, 250
Ontario	6	60	640	19, 809	—	—	—	—	640	19, 809
Manitoba and Nova Scotia	—	—	616	28, 981	2, 996	119, 171	—	—	3, 612	148, 152
British Columbia	—	—	48, 479	1, 642, 472	8, 869	260, 518	—	—	57, 348	1, 902, 990
Total	6	60	82, 825	2, 517, 615	16, 359	496, 002	88	5, 005	99, 272	3, 018, 622
1955										
Nova Scotia	—	—	9, 290	230, 843	40	11, 659	—	—	9, 330	242, 502
New Brunswick	—	—	31, 207	611, 200	1, 119	23, 317	57	4, 179	32, 383	638, 696
Quebec	—	—	9, 549	282, 952	881	31, 291	—	—	10, 430	314, 243
Ontario	—	—	60, 385	2, 130, 819	5, 051	159, 027	—	—	65, 436	2, 289, 846
Total	—	—	110, 431	3, 255, 814	7, 091	225, 294	57	4, 179	117, 579	3, 485, 287

1. Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$946,890 in 1954 and \$1,166,124 in 1955.

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1946-1955

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1946	145	1, 305	1951	50	1, 100
1947	95	950	1952	32	320
1948	85	850	1953	—	—
1949	56	560	1954	6	60
1950	58	580	1955	—	—

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1946-1955

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1946	96,839	2,395,649	1951	76,809	2,433,008
1947	80,019	2,279,821	1952	74,899	2,443,765
1948	89,800	2,767,878	1953	81,654	2,643,019
1949	80,249	2,376,849	1954	99,272	3,018,622
1950	75,195	2,256,870	1955	117,579	3,485,287

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss and Other Mosses, 1946-1955

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1946	81,940	2,892,563	1951	71,874	3,073,002
1947	72,918	2,634,003	1952	68,276	3,127,593
1948	77,924	2,946,923	1953	73,509	3,289,755
1949	68,390	2,554,388	1954	87,333	4,499,952
1950	65,962	2,718,257	1955	102,997	5,388,362

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 the size of these units.

TABLE 7. World Production of Peat, by Countries¹

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

Country	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
(Thousands short tons)					
Austria ²	55	55	55	55	45
Canada:					
Agricultural use ³	77	75	82	99	126
Denmark	2,220	1,792	633	701	785
Finland:					
Agricultural use	8	200 ²	4	2	1
Fuel	220	88	287	132	176
France	73	88	88 ²	88 ²	88 ²
Germany:					
East ²	550	550	550	550	550
West:					
Agricultural use	308	371	485	480	492
Fuel	1,264	897	992	1,041	1,153
Hungary ²	9	55	55	60	65
Iceland ²	2	3	1	4	4
Ireland:					
Agricultural use	3	4	6	6	6 ²
Fuel	4,408	4,254	4,255	3,025	3,605
Italy	6	1	1	1	1 ²
Japan	4	33	55	65	77
Korea, Republic of	352	89	83	110 ²	110 ²
Netherlands	708	766	499	500 ²	500 ²
Norway:					
Agricultural use	28	29	23	23	23 ²
Fuel	362	366	279	261	275 ²
Spain	4	2	1	1 ²	1 ²
Sweden:					
Agricultural use	114	100	100 ²	110 ²	110 ²
Fuel	269	288	275 ²	275 ²	275 ²
U.S.S.R. ²	49,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
United States	194	211	204	244	274
Total (estimate)	60,000	60,000	59,000	57,000	58,000

1. This table incorporates a number of revisions of data published previously.

2. Estimate.

3. In addition, Canada produces a negligible amount of peat fuel.

4. Negligible.

TABLE 8. Employees and Their Earnings in the Peat Industry, 1951-1955

Year	Number of employees					Man-hours worked	Earnings			
	Administration		Workmen		Total employees		Administration	Workmen	Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female						
1951	42	15	750	52	859	1,295,177	131,410	1,116,209	1,247,619	
1952	38	13	919	72	1,042	1,550,590	165,704	1,436,121	1,601,825	
1953	33	13	867	42	955	1,600,087	170,184	1,409,531	1,579,715	
1954	36	17	802	25	880	1,432,578	177,767	1,558,235	1,736,002	
1955	43	19	1,072	46	1,180	1,913,383	188,146	1,921,020	2,109,166	

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1954 and 1955

Month	1954						1955					
	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female
Number												
January	166	6	186	—	358	221	4	184	4	413		
February	207	5	259	14	485	339	5	252	4	600		
March	331	10	306	12	659	346	9	297	4	656		
April	411	11	310	5	737	376	10	305	4	695		
May	386	19	304	2	711	956	18	330	4	1,308		
June	984	28	285	2	1,299	1,446	90	365	3	1,904		
July	1,135	61	381	16	1,593	1,664	81	272	4	2,021		
August	837	25	282	1	837	1,744	148	278	4	2,174		
September	736	24	254	1	736	1,270	136	289	4	1,699		
October	621	6	196	1	621	784	75	288	4	1,151		
November	392	5	182	1	580	446	9	228	4	687		
December	291	5	154	1	451	263	7	209	4	483		
Average	542	19	260	6	827	796	42	796	4	1,118		
Man-hours worked					1,336,152						1,803,388	

Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1955

Name of firm	Head office address	Location of bog or plant
Nova Scotia:		
Annapolis Valley Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	Berwick	Berwick
New Brunswick:		
Atlantic Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	4460, boul. Pie IX, Montréal, Québec	Shippegan, Lameque
Bog-Trotters Ltd.	Grand Falls	Centreville
Fafard Peat Moss Co. ¹	Shippegan	Shippegan
Québec:		
Beausejour Peat Moss ¹	St-Romuald	St-Lambert
Boulanger & Frères ¹	St-Fabien	Rinouiski
Bourque & Fils Enr'g. ¹	St-Marc des Carrières	St-Alban
Dubois, Oscar ²	Les Escoumins	Les Escoumins
Fortin, Jean J., Mme ¹	582, boul. Lamarche, Chicoutimi	La Baleine
Michaud, J.F.A. ¹	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Premier Peat Moss Producers Ltd. ¹	Rivière-du-Loup	Cacouna, Isle Verte, Rivière-du-Loup
Quebec Peat Moss Co. ¹	St. Guillaume d'Upton	St. Bonaventure
R. & E. Moss & Peat Products ¹	Box 243, Waterville	Waterville
Roy, Benoit	Rivière Blanche	Matane Co.
Roy, Ernest ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Roy, Romeo ¹	St-Ulric	St-Ulric
Saguenay Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	582, boul. Lamarche, Chicoutimi	Bagot Twp.
Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd. ²	600 Dorchester St. W., Montreal	Lac a la Tortue
Tourbière de Pointe-au-Père ¹	Mont Joli	Pointe-au-Père
Tourbières Rivière-Ouelle, Les ¹	Ste-Anne de la Pocatière	Rivière-Ouelle
Tourbière de St-Fabien ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Ontario:		
Atkins & Durbrow (Erie) Ltd. ¹	24 Dorothy St., Welland	Wainfleet Twp.
Humar Corporation, Ltd. ³	Suite 1010-100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto	Beverley Twp.
Leasa Peat Works ^{2,4}	12 Rankin St., Stratford	Ellice Twp.
Manitoba:		
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	New Westminster, British Columbia	Moss spur
British Columbia:		
Acme Peat Products Ltd. ¹	789 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Atkins & Durbrow Ltd. ¹	1178 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Ladner
Blundell Peat Co. Ltd.	806 No. 6 Road, Vancouver	No. 6 Road
Byrneroad Peat Farm ¹	2707 McKay Ave., South Burnaby	Burnaby South
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	736 Granville St., Vancouver	Pitt Meadows
Ed-Mac Peat Ltd.	New Westminster	Lulu Island
Industrial Peat Co. ¹	Box 329, New Westminster	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	261 No. 7 Road, R. R. 2, Vancouver	Lulu Island
Meadowland Farms Ltd. ¹	3495 Marine Drive, South Burnaby	South Burnaby
North American Peat Ltd. ¹	10th & Alma, Vancouver	Burnaby
Northern Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	1178 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Richmond Peat Products Ltd. ¹	1178 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	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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