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THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1956



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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 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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During 1956 the Canadian producers of peat moss shipped 128,054 tons valued at \$4,240,714 compared with 117,579 tons valued at \$3,485,287 in the preceding year. The valuations exclude the cost of containers. There were no shipments of peat fuel during 1955 nor 1956. Exports of peat moss, Irish moss, etc. during 1956 amounted to 113,346 tons valued at \$6,068,845. British Columbia shipped 63,812 tons and Quebec sold 40,268 tons. Lesser amounts were shipped from bogs in Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

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 1956 was 1,274 to whom \$2,538,885 were distributed as salaries and wages. Fuel cost \$118,198 and 2,049,711 kwh. of purchased electricity cost \$57,153. Process supplies and containers cost \$1,251,702.

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, 1921-1956

Year	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	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
						\$	
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
1951	37	859	1, 247, 619	111, 047	765, 387	3, 149, 444	2, 273, 010
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
1956	38	1, 274	2, 538, 885	175, 351	1, 251, 702	5, 451, 305	4, 024, 252

1. Includes packing materials and containers.

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

TABLE 2. Principal Statistics, by Provinces, 1955 and 1956

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	
1955			\$	\$	tons	tons	\$
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
Manitoba							
British Columbia	39	1,180	2,109,166	1,350,085	—	117,579	4,651,411
Canada							
1956							
Nova Scotia	5	242	292,588	193,128	—	14,562	741,440
New Brunswick	18	382	669,042	457,980	—	40,268	1,347,238
Quebec	3	69	165,297	127,581	—	9,412	450,006
Ontario	12	581	1,411,958	648,364	—	63,812	2,912,621
Manitoba							
British Columbia	38	1,274	2,538,885	1,427,053	—	128,054	5,451,305
Canada							

1. Includes value of containers.

TABLE 3. Production of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and by Provinces, 1955 and 1956

Province	Peat fuel	Peat moss							
		For horticulture		For poultry and stable litter		For other uses		Total moss shipments	
		Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
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
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
Manitoba									
British Columbia	—	—	110,431	3,255,814	7,091	225,294	57	4,179	117,579
Total	—	—							3,483,287
1956									
Nova Scotia	—	—	14,116	547,365	446	14,789	—	14,562	562,154
New Brunswick	—	—	32,526	783,026	7,682	161,839	60	6,779	40,268
Quebec	—	—	5,800	185,880	3,612	147,465	—	9,412	333,345
Ontario	—	—	59,559	2,259,296	4,253	134,275	—	63,812	2,393,571
Manitoba									
British Columbia	—	—	112,001	3,775,567	15,993	458,368	60	6,779	128,054
Total	—	—							4,240,714

1. Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$1,166,124 in 1955 and \$1,210,591 in 1956.

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1947-1956

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1947	95	950	1952	32	320
1948	85	850	1953	—	—
1949	56	560	1954	6	60
1950	58	580	1955	—	—
1951	50	1,100	1956	—	—

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1947-1956

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
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
1951	76,809	2,433,008	1956	128,054	4,240,714

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss and Other Mosses, 1947-1956

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
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
1951	71,874	3,073,002	1956	113,346	6,068,845

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
(Thousand 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 ²	132 ²	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	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
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	
1956	40	17	1, 167	50	1, 274	2, 223, 615	215, 724	2, 323, 161	2, 538, 885	

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1955 and 1956

Month	1955						1956					
	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	Total	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female			Male	Female	Male	Female		
Number												
January	221	4	184	4	413	437	5	296	13	751		
February	339	5	252	4	600	373	5	405	6	789		
March	346	9	297	4	656	430	9	456	6	901		
April	376	10	305	4	695	488	15	464	7	974		
May	956	18	330	4	1, 308	928	152	447	7	1, 534		
June	1, 446	90	365	3	1, 904	1, 053	54	436	6	1, 549		
July	1, 664	81	272	4	2, 021	1, 712	223	429	6	2, 370		
August	1, 744	148	278	4	2, 174	1, 290	167	435	6	1, 898		
September	1, 270	136	289	4	1, 699	840	52	405	6	1, 303		
October	784	75	288	4	1, 151	816	16	389	5	1, 226		
November	446	9	228	4	687	527	9	318	6	860		
December	263	7	209	4	483	290	5	238	4	537		
Average	796	42	796	4	1, 118	769	43	398	7	1, 217		
Man-hours worked					1, 803, 388					2, 120, 562		

Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1956

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	Rimouski
Bourque & Fils Enr'g. ¹	St-Marc des Carrières	St-Alban
Dubois, Oscar ²	Les Escoumins	Les Escourmins
Fortin, Jean J. Mme ¹	582, boul. Lamarche, Chicoutimi	La Baleine
Michaud, J.F.A. ¹	Isle Verte	Isle Verte ¹
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. & B. 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
Tourbière Rivière-Ouelle, Les ¹	Rivière-Ouelle	Rivière-Ouelle
Tourbière de St-Patrice 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.
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
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.

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