

CATALOGUE No.

26-212

ANNUAL

623

SEP 30 1959



THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1958



Published by Authority of

The Honourable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Industry and Merchandising Division

October, 1959
6514-521

Prices 25 cents

The Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1959

PUBLICATIONS ON MINERAL STATISTICS

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Ottawa, Canada

Catalogue number	Name of publication	Price
Annual		
26 - 201	A — General Review of the Mining Industry	\$.75
26 - 209	B — The Gold Mining Industry75
26 - 216	C — The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry50
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THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1958

The Canadian producers of peat moss shipped 149,013 tons valued at \$4,778,860 in 1958 compared with 137,747 tons valued at \$4,734,504 in 1957. The valuations do not include the cost of containers. There were no shipments of peat fuel during the past years. Exports of peat moss, Irish moss, etc. during 1958 amounted to 129,138 tons valued at \$7,507,463. The bogs in British Columbia shipped 67,828 tons of peat moss, and those in Quebec shipped 43,281 tons. Peat moss was also harvested 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 1958 was 1,447 to whom \$2,484,732 were distributed as salaries and wages. Fuel cost \$113,624 and 4,052,703 kwh. of purchased electricity cost \$67,352. Process supplies and containers cost \$1,445,196.

Peat moss, the dead fibrous moss produced from peat bogs, is valuable because of its high

absorbent capacity for liquids and gases, high resistance to decomposition, and low heat conductivity. Because of these properties it makes an excellent stable litter for horses and cattle, and it is especially valuable for poultry litter. Although not a fertilizer in itself, it is a good soil conditioner as it loosens up a clay soil, helps to maintain the moisture in a light sandy soil, and adds valuable organic matter to depleted soils. The main use of peat moss is horticultural, for better lawns, more luxuriant flowers, and stronger plants and shrubs are obtainable through its addition to the soil. It makes excellent packing material for the shipment of perishable fruits, vegetables and cut flowers. It is useful for making compost and as a diluent and carrier in the application of artificial fertilizers.

Technical information on peat moss appears in the Mines Branch Information Circular 1C 104 published by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa.

TABLE I. Principal Statistics of the Peat Industry, Significant Years, 1921-1958

Year	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of fuel and electricity at works	Cost of process supplies and containers	Gross value of products shipped during year, including containers (f.o.b. works) ¹	Net value of production ²
number							
dollars							
1921	Previous to 1941, the peat industry was included in the Miscellaneous Non-metallic Mineral Products statistics.						
1929	Pertinent data for these years are not available.						
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
1957	35	1,168	2,542,210	182,987	1,283,093	5,898,696	4,432,616
1958	38	1,447	2,484,732	180,976	1,406,515	6,185,375	4,559,203

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, 1957 and 1958

Province	Plants	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	
1957	number		dollars		tons		\$
Nova Scotia	5	213	375,737	211,560	—	19,844	988,419
New Brunswick							
Quebec	15	412	698,426	515,819	—	48,704	1,614,699
Ontario	3	75	200,235	127,180	—	10,420	546,685
Manitoba							
British Columbia	12	468	1,257,812	611,521	—	58,779	2,748,893
Canada	35	1,168	2,542,210	1,466,080	—	137,747	5,898,696
1958							
Nova Scotia	5	220	395,364	281,705	—	23,434	990,680
New Brunswick							
Quebec	17	418	708,953	435,134	—	43,281	1,447,222
Ontario	2	109	268,661	196,436	—	14,470	734,400
Manitoba							
British Columbia	14	700	1,111,754	712,897	—	67,828	3,013,073
Canada	38	1,447	2,484,732	1,626,172	—	149,013	6,185,375

¹ Includes value of containers.

TABLE 3. Production of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and by Provinces, 1957 and 1958

Province	Peat fuel		Peat moss							
			For horticulture		For poultry and stable litter		For other uses		Total moss shipments	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
1957		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$
Nova Scotia	—	—	19,844	816,109	—	—	—	—	19,844	816,109
New Brunswick										
Quebec	—	—	42,446	995,238	6,208	141,321	50	3,917	48,704	1,140,476
Ontario	—	—	7,696	331,876	2,724	102,211	—	—	10,420	434,087
Manitoba										
British Columbia	—	—	55,598	2,222,579	3,181	121,253	—	—	58,779	2,343,832
Total	—	—	125,584	4,365,802	12,113	364,785	50	3,917	137,747	4,734,504
1958										
Nova Scotia	—	—	22,045	698,385	1,389	28,827	—	—	23,434	727,212
New Brunswick										
Quebec	—	—	40,243	980,490	2,992	74,398	46	1,923	43,281	1,056,811
Ontario	—	—	11,612	419,134	2,858	141,017	—	—	14,470	560,151
Manitoba										
British Columbia	—	—	65,970	2,376,299	1,858	58,387	—	—	67,828	2,434,686
Total	—	—	139,870	4,474,308	9,097	302,629	46	1,923	149,013	4,778,860

¹ Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$1,238,207 in 1957 and \$1,406,515 in 1958.

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1948 - 1958

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1948	85	\$ 850	1954	6	\$ 60
1949	56	560	1955	—	—
1950	58	580	1956	—	—
1951	50	1,100	1957	—	—
1952	32	320	1958	—	—
1953	—	—			

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1949-1958

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
		\$			\$
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
1952	74,899	2,443,765	1957	137,747	4,734,504
1953	81,654	2,643,019	1958	149,013	4,778,860

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss and Other Mosses, 1949-1958

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
		\$			\$
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
1952	68,276	3,127,593	1957	117,877	6,668,723
1953	73,509	3,289,755	1958	129,138	7,507,463

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	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
thousand short tons					
Austria ²	55	55	45	45	45
Canada:					
Agricultural use ³	82	99	118	128	132
Denmark	633	601	785	778	809
Finland:					
Agricultural use	4	9 ²	9 ²	19 ²	19 ²
Fuel	216	165	176	158	208
France	25	51	35	35 ²	35 ²
Germany:					
East ²	550	550	550	550	550
West:					
Agricultural use	485	480	492	659	780
Fuel	992	1,041	1,153	1,005	808
Hungary ²	55	60	65	65	—
Ireland:					
Agricultural use	6	9	10	9	203
Fuel	4,255	3,025	3,937	4,006	4,378
Israel	—	29	43	42	22
Japan	55	65	75	75	80
Korea, Republic of	83	275 ²	448	450	269
Netherlands	499	500 ²	500 ²	500 ²	500
Norway:					
Agricultural use	23	23	31	29	150
Fuel	279	261	263	263	260
Poland	660	660	718	729	730
Sweden:					
Agricultural use	88	71	71	82	80
Fuel	265	231	287	275	275
U.S.S.R. ²	42,550	49,700	56,200	48,800 ²	59,600
United States	204	244	274	292	316
Total (estimate)⁴	52,100	58,200	66,090	58,990	70,300

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 Iceland, Italy and Spain produced a negligible amount of peat fuel.

TABLE 8. Employees and their Earnings in the Peat Industry, 1954-1958

Year	Employees						Man-hours worked	Earnings		
	Administration		Workmen		Total employees	Administration		Workmen	Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female						
	number							dollars		
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	
1957	50	15	1,060	43	1,168	2,365,467	254,685	2,287,525	2,542,210	
1958	47	22	1,301	77	1,447	2,298,171	214,159	2,270,573	2,484,732	

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1957 and 1958

Month	1957						1958			
	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
	number									
January	213	-	307	20	540	246	-	231	32	509
February	230	-	353	21	604	274	-	348	37	659
March	366	8	426	9	809	409	6	472	36	723
April	373	1	386	19	779	289	11	493	25	818
May	909	69	438	3	1,429	1,368	102	567	13	2,050
June	1,219	38	470	9	1,736	1,761	100	477	14	2,352
July	1,282	70	451	10	1,813	1,850	246	479	9	2,584
August	1,299	99	414	9	1,821	1,205	191	487	11	1,894
September	956	49	414	8	1,427	1,132	23	438	10	1,603
October	762	9	372	6	1,149	984	11	412	8	1,415
November	382	1	258	16	657	537	19	327	6	889
December	210	-	179	16	405	264	1	277	21	563
Average	685	30	374	13	1,103	886	59	415	18	1,378
Man-hours worked					2,248,401					2,175,372

TABLE 10. Fuel and Electricity Used in the Peat Industry, 1958

			Quantity	Cost at plant
				\$
Bituminous coal (a) From Canadian mines		short ton		
(b) Imported	"	"	3,607	36,340
Sub-bituminous coal (from Alberta mines only)	"	"	-	-
Anthracite coal	"	"	-	-
Lignite coal	"	"	-	-
Coke (for fuel only)	"	"	-	-
Gasoline, (includes gasoline used in cars and trucks)	Imp. gal.		162,795	57,509
Kerosene or coal oil	"		13,593	5,184
Fuel oil	"		78,514	14,541
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood)	cord		10	50
Gas (a) Liquefied petroleum gases (propane, etc.)	Imp. gal.		-	-
(b) Other manufactured gas	M cu. ft.		-	-
(c) Natural gas	"		-	-
Other fuel	"		-	-
Electricity purchased for power and lighting	kwh.		4,052,703	67,352
Electricity purchased for other purposes	"		-	-
Total (cost only)	"		...	180,978
Electricity generated (a) For own use	kwh.		-	-
(b) For sale	"		-	-

... Not applicable.

TABLE 11. Power Equipment Used in the Peat Industry, 1958

Type of equipment	Driving generators	Not driving generators
	horsepower	
A. Prime movers:		
Steam engines	—	—
Steam turbines	—	—
Diesel engines	—	901
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than diesel engines	250	1,797
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels	—	16
Total	250	2,714
B. Electric motors (one-quarter horsepower and over)	673	1,200

Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1958

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. ¹	Grand Falls	Centreville
Fafard Peat Moss Co. ¹	Shippegan	Shippegan
Québec:		
Boulanger & Frères ¹	St-Fabien	Rimouski
Bourque & Fils Enreg. ¹	St-Marc-des-Carrières	St-Alban
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. & B. Moss & Peat Products ¹	Box 243, Waterville	Waterville
Roy, Benoit ¹	Rivière Blanche	Matane Co.
Roy, Ernest ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Roy, Roméo ¹	St-Ulric	St-Ulric
Saguenay Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	582, boul. Lamarche, Chicoutimi	Bagot Twp.
Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd. ¹	600 Dorchester St. W., Montreal	Lac à la Tortue
Tourbière de Pointe-au-Père ¹	Mont-Joli	Pointe-au-Père
Tourbières Rivière-Ouelle, Les ¹	Rivière-Ouelle	Rivière-Ouelle
Tourbière de St-Fabien ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Théberge, Henri ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Ontario:		
Atkins & Durbrow (Erie) Ltd. ¹	24 Dorothy St., Welland	Wainfleet Twp.
Humar Corporation, Ltd. ^{2,3}	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	1158 Melville St., Vancouver	Ladner
Blundell Peat Co. Ltd.	820 No. 6 Road, Vancouver	No. 6 Road
Byrneroad Peat Farm ¹	6350 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
Kootenay Peat Products Ltd. ¹	2nd St., Cranbrook	Kootenay District
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
Northern Industries Ltd. ¹	245 # 8 Road, Richmond	Richmond
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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