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THE PEAT INDUSTRY
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THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1960

The Peat Industry is classified to industry 079 – of the Standard Industrial Classification.

During 1960 the Canadian producers of peat moss shipped 185,784 short tons valued at \$6,088,138. Comparable data for the preceding year was 184,049 tons valued at \$6,226,688. The valuations do not include the cost of containers. There were no shipments of peat fuel during recent years. Exports of peat moss, Irish moss, etc. during 1960 amounted to 157,490 tons valued at \$8,825,540. The bogs in British Columbia shipped 80,272 tons of peat moss and those in Quebec shipped 56,731. 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 1960 was 1,172 to whom \$3,060,511 were distributed as salaries and wages. Fuel cost \$279,827 and 5,125,278 kwh. of purchased electricity cost \$86,590. Process supplies and containers cost \$14,285.

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 in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Peat Industry, Significant Years, 1921 - 60

Year	Estab-lish-ments	Em-ployees	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							
1929							
1931	Previous to 1941, the peat industry was included in the						
1933	Miscellaneous Non-metallic Mineral Products statistics.						
1937	Pertinent data for these years are not available.						
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
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
1959	38	1,333	2,659,836	238,878	1,732,682	7,908,662	5,937,102
1960	40	1,172	3,060,511	279,827	1,863,202	7,937,055	5,794,026

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, 1959 and 1960

Province	Plants	Em- ployees	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		
	number		dollars		tons		\$	
1959								
Nova Scotia	}	5	271	469,584	281,714	—	27,492	1,154,072
New Brunswick		19	426	763,026	524,068	—	50,578	1,760,157
Quebec	}	2	95	288,746	302,338	—	27,164	1,227,190
Manitoba		12	541	1,138,480	862,440	—	78,815	3,767,243
British Columbia		38	1,333	2,659,836	1,970,560	—	184,049	7,908,662
Canada								
1960								
Nova Scotia	}	4	263	512,676	359,170	—	22,719	1,239,912
New Brunswick		22	388	853,842	626,585	—	56,731	1,925,633
Quebec	}	2	100	312,895	285,607	—	26,062	1,066,796
Manitoba		12	421	1,381,098	871,667	—	80,272	3,704,714
British Columbia		40	1,172	3,060,511	2,143,029	—	185,784	7,937,055
Canada								

¹ Includes value of containers.

TABLE 3. Production of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and by Provinces, 1959 and 1960

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 ¹	
1959		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	
Nova Scotia	}	—	—	25,454	807,001	2,038	83,054	—	—	27,492	890,055
New Brunswick		—	—	47,348	1,196,212	3,164	81,029	66	4,840	50,578	1,282,081
Quebec	}	—	—	23,854	803,089	3,310	141,840	—	—	27,164	944,929
Manitoba		—	—	77,168	3,057,726	1,647	51,897	—	—	78,815	3,109,623
British Columbia		—	—	173,824	5,864,028	10,159	357,820	66	4,840	184,049	6,226,688
Totals											
1960											
Nova Scotia	}	—	—	21,806	863,775	913	37,729	—	—	22,719	901,504
New Brunswick		—	—	53,206	1,254,229	3,460	82,487	65	5,622	56,731	1,342,338
Quebec	}	—	—	24,173	714,221	1,889	92,560	—	—	26,062	806,781
Manitoba		—	—	79,041	2,998,450	1,231	39,065	—	—	80,272	3,037,515
British Columbia		—	—	178,226	5,830,675	7,493	251,841	65	5,622	185,784	6,088,138
Totals											

¹ Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$1,681,974 in 1959; and \$1,848,917 in 1960

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1951-60

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
		\$			\$
1951	50	1,100	1956	—	—
1952	32	320	1957	—	—
1953	—	—	1958	—	—
1954	6	60	1959	—	—
1955	—	—	1960	—	—

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1951 - 60

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
		\$			\$
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	149,401	4,778,860
1954	99,272	3,018,622	1959	184,049	6,226,688
1955	117,579	3,485,287	1960	184,784	6,088,138

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss and Other Mosses, 1951 - 60

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
		\$			\$
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
1954	87,333	4,499,952	1959	161,236	8,976,389
1955	102,997	5,388,362	1960	157,490	8,825,540

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	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	thousand short tons				
Austria ²	45	45	45	45	40
Canada:					
Agricultural use ³	118	128	138	149	181
Denmark	785	778	809	424	463
Finland:					
Agricultural use	9 ²	19 ²	19 ²	8	6
Fuel	176	158	208	150	160
France:					
Agricultural use	33	45	45 ²	22 ²	28 ²
Fuel	2	6	6 ²	3 ²	3 ²
Germany:					
East ²	550	550	550	550	550
West:					
Agricultural use	492	659	780	819	880 ²
Fuel	1,153	1,005	808	649	772
Hungary ²	65	65	65	65	65
Ireland:					
Agricultural use	10	9	14	10	11 ²
Fuel	3,937	4,006	4,375	2,491	4,805
Israel, agricultural use	43	42	22	28 ²	44 ²
Japan ²	75	75	80	80	80
Korea, Republic of	448	288	269	141	140 ²
Netherlands ²	500	500	500	500	500
Norway:					
Agricultural use	31	29	28	33 ²	33 ²
Fuel	263	263	260 ²	64	66
Poland	718	729	400	400 ²	400 ²
Sweden:					
Agricultural use	71	82	80	71	70 ²
Fuel	287	275	314	281	275 ²
U.S.S.R. ²	56,000	49,400	60,500	58,200	60,600 ²
United States, agricultural	274	292	316	328	419
World totals (estimate)⁴	66,090	59,450	70,630	65,510	70,600

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, 1956-60

Year	Employees					Man-hours worked	Earnings		
	Administration		Workmen		Total employees		Adminis- tration	Workmen	Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female					
	number					dollars			
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
1959	54	25	1,207	47	1,333	2,221,117	269,908	2,389,928	2,659,836
1960	47	23	1,073	29	1,172	2,417,903	300,699	2,759,812	3,060,511

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1959 and 1960

Month	1959					1960				
	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total	At bogs		At dressing plants		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
	number									
January	255	14	197	13	479	245	—	192	24	461
February	335	3	359	13	710	307	—	405	10	722
March	362	4	472	10	848	345	—	396	11	752
April	495	26	496	9	1,026	434	1	364	10	809
May	818	19	500	19	1,356	622	17	427	8	1,074
June	1,419	59	437	18	1,933	1,376	29	586	9	2,000
July	1,779	157	464	13	2,413	1,554	52	492	5	2,103
August	1,414	104	456	23	1,997	1,569	100	452	4	2,125
September	1,075	8	390	15	1,488	1,188	43	340	6	1,577
October	735	4	313	15	1,067	670	13	295	3	981
November	344	—	202	4	550	263	1	181	1	446
December	234	—	156	5	395	185	1	136	4	326
Average	846	34	361	13	1,254	729	22	344	7	1,102
<i>Man-hours worked</i>						2,083,511				
						2,280,013				

TABLE 10. Fuel and Electricity Used in the Peat Industry, 1960

Kind	Quantity	Cost at plant
		\$
Bituminous coal (a) From Canadian mines	—	—
(b) Imported	—	—
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. 272,972	85,789
Kerosene or coal oil	" 50	18
Fuel oil	" 310,178	32,373
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood)	cord 5	40
Gas (a) Liquefied petroleum gases (propane, etc.)	7,160	1,774
(b) Other manufactured gas	—	—
(c) Natural gas	M cu. ft. 107,175	73,243
Other fuel	—	—
Electricity purchased for power and lighting	kwh. 5,125,278	86,590
Electricity purchased for other purposes	—	—
Totals (cost only)	279,827
Electricity generated (a) For own use	—	—
(b) For sale	—	—

... Figures not applicable.

Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1960

Name of firm	Head office address	Location of hog 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:		
Boulangier & Frères ¹	St-Fabien	Rimouski
Bourque & Fils Enr'g. ¹	St-Marc-des-Carrières	St-Alban
Cornier, Eloi ²	Bécancourt	Nicolet
Fortin, Jean J. Mme ¹	582, boul. Lamarche, Chicoutimi	La Baleine
Gagnon & Thérberge	St-Fabien	St. Simon
Lerclerc Peat Moss	La Paleine	Charlevoix
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. ³	600 Dorchester St. W., Montreal	Lac à la Tortue
Thérberge, Henri ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Thérberge, Noel A. ¹	St-Fabien	Rimouski
Tourbière, Clair Inc. ³	5312 ave Papineau, Montreal	St. Charles de Bellechasse
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
Thérberge, Henri ¹	St-Fabien	St-Fabien
Ontario:		
Atkins & Durbrow (Erie) Ltd. ¹	Box 55 Port Colborne	Wainfleet Twp.
Manitoba:		
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	New Westminster, British Columbia	Moss Spur
British Columbia:		
Acme Peat Products Ltd. ¹	687 #7 Road R.R. 2, Richmond	Lulu Island
Atkins & Durbrow Ltd. ¹	1158 Mellville 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 Products Ltd. ¹	Box 238, New Westminster	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	261 No. 7 Road, R.R. 2, Vancouver	Lulu Island
Meadowland Farms Ltd. ¹	5025 Marine Drive, South Burnaby	South Burnaby
North American Peat Ltd. ¹	5280 Byrne Road, Burnaby	Burnaby
Northern Industries Ltd. ¹	245 #8 Road, Richmond	Richmond
Richmond Peat Products Ltd. ¹	245 No. 8 Road, Richmond	Lulu Island
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	Box 88, New Westminster	Lulu Island

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

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