PEAT

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: The estimated free on board (f.o.b.) mine value of marketable peat sold by producers in the United States was $12 million in 2024. Peat was harvested and processed by 26 companies in 11 States. Three companies were idle in 2024. The top three producing States were Florida, Maine, and Minnesota, which accounted for 52% of the quantity of peat sold. Reed-sedge peat accounted for approximately 87% of the total volume produced, followed by sphagnum moss with an estimated 12%. Domestic peat applications included earthworm culture medium, golf course construction, mixed fertilizers, mushroom culture, nurseries, packing for flowers and plants, seed inoculants, and vegetable cultivation. In the industrial sector, peat was used as an oil absorbent and as an efficient filtration medium for the removal of waterborne contaminants in mine waste streams, municipal storm drainage, and septic systems.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024[e]
Production	354	324	343	[e]310	350
Sales by producers	386	386	497	[e]480	500
Imports for consumption	1,390	1,630	1,440	1,170	1,300
Exports	46	37	43	42	50
Consumption, apparent[1]	1,690	1,970	1,740	[e]1,500	1,600
Price, average unit value, f.o.b. mine, dollars per metric ton	26.07	38.52	26.58	20.00	24
Stocks, producer, yearend	288	235	235	[e]200	220
Employment, mine and plant, number[e]	510	510	510	500	500
Net import reliance[2] as a percentage of apparent consumption	79	84	80	79	78

Recycling: None.

Import Sources (2020–23): Canada, 96%; and other, 4%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–24
Peat	2703.00.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 5% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: Peat is an important component of plant-growing media, and the demand for peat generally follows that of horticultural applications. Imports in 2024 were estimated to have increased to 1.3 million tons from 1.17 million tons in 2023, and exports were estimated to have increased by 19% to an estimated 50,000 tons from 42,000 tons in 2023. In 2024, peat stocks were estimated to have increased to 220,000 tons from 200,000 tons in 2023. The world's leading peat producers in 2024 were estimated to be, in descending order of production, Finland, Canada, Latvia, Belarus, and Sweden.

Concerns about climate change prompted several countries to plan to decrease or eliminate the use of peat, owing to peatland's ability to act as a carbon sink. Projects in the United States were done in partnership among conservation institutions and local and Federal governments to restore peatlands in Minnesota and North Carolina. In Minnesota, research on how to restore peatlands was done in partnership with a conservation institute, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, two local universities, and a local nonprofit organization. In North Carolina, work was done with various Federal and State agencies and institutions to install water management infrastructure, including water control structures, to restore degraded peatlands.

Finland continued to work toward its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2035. To achieve this, peat production was to be phased out in favor of other forms of noncarbon energy. In the first half of 2024, only 2% of Finland's energy consumption was supplied by peat. Approximately 44% of Finland's energy supply was generated using renewable energy sources, whereas 24% was produced by nuclear energy. Since 2020, new peat harvesting permits were approved for 468 hectares. However, 1,600 hectares of wetlands were established, and 551 hectares of peatland permits were rejected during that same period. The active peat extraction area in Finland was about 19,000 hectares in 2024.

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PEAT

Ireland announced the end of its peat harvesting in 2021, as the country transitioned to alternative fuel sources. However, in October 2024, Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency began investigating outside operators who illegally continued peat extraction in the country. Some of the alleged commercial operations were small-scale peat harvesters, but at least two operations were suspected of being large scale. Ireland's peat briquet production ended in June 2023 when the last factory in Offaly ceased its operation. This plant was originally scheduled to close in 2024, but the quality of the remaining stockpiled peat and the cost of maintaining the facility accelerated its closure. In 2023, the country released a 30-year climate plan that aims to phase out coal and peat-fired electricity generation. Instead, renewable energy sources were expected to generate approximately 80% of Ireland's electricity needs by 2030.

In the United Kingdom throughout 2024, environmental organizations and some politicians called for a shortened timeline for a ban on peat products. A bill was brought forward in Parliament that outlined plans to end the sale of horticultural peat before the end of 2025. The peat-products ban is expected to begin in 2026, with some exemptions delayed until 2030 to prepare for the phaseout. Bagged compost accounted for about half of the extracted peat marketed in the United Kingdom.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves for countries that reported by volume only and had insufficient data for conversion to tonnage were combined and included with "Other countries."

	Mine production		Reserves[3]
	2023	2024[e]	
United States	[e]310	350	150,000
Belarus	[e]2,200	2,200	2,600,000
Canada	3,030	3,000	720,000
Estonia	[e]1,200	1,200	570,000
Finland	[e]3,300	3,300	6,000,000
Germany	1,720	1,700	([4])
Latvia	2,430	2,400	150,000
Lithuania	394	400	210,000
Poland	846	850	([4])
Russia	[e]1,600	1,600	1,000,000
Sweden	1,820	2,000	([4])
Ukraine	440	440	([4])
Other countries[e]	650	600	1,400,000
World total (rounded)	19,900	20,000	13,000,000

World Resources:[3] Peat is a renewable resource, continuing to accumulate on 60% of global peatlands. However, the volume of global peatlands has been decreasing at a rate of 0.05% per year owing to harvesting and land development. Many countries evaluate peat resources based on volume or area because the variations in densities and thickness of peat deposits make it difficult to estimate tonnage. Volume data have been converted using the average bulk density of peat produced in each of those countries. More than 50% of the U.S. peat resources are located in undisturbed areas of Alaska.

Substitutes: Natural organic materials, such as composted yard waste and coir (coconut fiber), compete with peat in horticultural applications. Shredded paper and straw are used to hold moisture for some grass-seeding applications. The superior water-holding capacity and physiochemical properties of peat limit substitution alternatives in most applications.

[e]Estimated.

[1]Defined as production + imports – exports ± adjustments for industry stock changes.

[2]Defined as imports – exports ± adjustments for industry stock changes.

[3]See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

[4]Included with "Other countries."