

## PEAT

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)<sup>1</sup>

**Domestic Production and Use:** The estimated f.o.b. plant value of marketable peat production in the contiguous United States was about \$16.5 million in 1999. Peat output in Alaska was valued at \$190,000, according to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Peat was harvested and processed by about 60 producers in 20 of the contiguous States, and several producers in Alaska. Florida, Michigan, and Minnesota were the largest producing States, in order of quantity produced. Reed-sedge peat accounted for about 60% of the total volume followed by sphagnum moss, 25%; humus and hypnum moss accounted for the remaining 15%. Approximately 95% of domestic peat was sold for horticulture/agriculture usage, including general soil improvement, potting soils, earthworm culture, nursery business, and golf course maintenance and construction, in order of importance. Other applications included seed inoculants, vegetable cultivation and mushroom culture, mixed fertilizers, and packing for flowers and plants. In the industrial sector, peat found widespread use as an oil absorbent, an efficient filtration medium for the removal of waterborne contaminants in mine waste streams, and municipal storm drainage. Peat also was used as an effective sterile absorbent in feminine hygiene products and disposable diapers

<b>Salient Statistics—United States:</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999<sup>e</sup></b>
Production	648	549	661	676	633
Commercial sales	660	640	753	785	775
Imports for consumption	669	667	754	761	800
Exports	20	19	22	30	30
Consumption, apparent <sup>2</sup>	1,170	1,240	1,310	1,420	1,460
Price, average value, f.o.b. mine, dollars per ton	25.80	28.90	23.23	24.07	26.11
Stocks, producer, yearend	384	342	421	408	350
Employment, mine and plant, number <sup>e</sup>	650	800	800	800	800
Net import reliance <sup>3</sup> as a percent of apparent consumption	44	56	50	52	57

**Recycling:** None.

**Import Sources (1995-98):** Canada, 99%; and other, 1%.

<b>Tariff:</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Normal Trade Relations</b> <b>12/31/99</b>
	Peat	2703.00.0000	Free.

**Depletion Allowance:** 5% (Domestic).

**Government Stockpile:** None.

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**Events, Trends, and Issues:** Restrictions placed on wetlands development by Federal and State agencies have led to the closure of many domestic peat bogs over the past 10 years. During the same period, domestic demand, especially for sphagnum peat, has grown substantially. These factors have helped the Canadian sphagnum peat industry, with its vast reserves, to capture a greater percentage of the U.S. market. In 1999, imports from Canada were on pace to reach another record of 800,000 tons, while sales of domestic peat were slightly less than last year. Apparent consumption of all types of peat increased for the fifth consecutive year owing to growing demand for plants, ornamental trees, and natural turf.

The outlook for the domestic peat industry will be influenced by several variables, including future regulations restricting the use of wetlands, the ability to permit new bogs, growth of composted yard wastes and other organic materials, and imports from Canada.

### **World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:**

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>4</sup>	Reserve base <sup>4</sup>
	1998	1999 <sup>e</sup>		
United States	676	633	15,000	6,400,000
Belarus <sup>e</sup>	300	300	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Canada	1,130	1,200	22,000	30,000,000
Estonia <sup>e</sup>	1,000	1,000	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Finland <sup>e</sup>	7,400	7,500	64,000	6,400,000
Germany <sup>e</sup>	2,980	3,000	42,000	450,000
Ireland	4,800	4,500	160,000	820,000
Latvia	450	450	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Lithuania	195	200	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Russia <sup>e</sup>	3,000	3,000	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Sweden	1,050	1,000	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Ukraine <sup>e</sup>	1,000	1,000	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
United Kingdom <sup>e</sup>	500	500	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Other countries	1,000	1,000	4,900,000	160,000,000
World total (rounded)	25,500	25,300	5,200,000	200,000,000

**World Resources:** U.S. resources of peat were estimated at more than 110 billion tons, with more than 50% located in undisturbed areas of Alaska. World resources of peat were estimated to be 2 trillion tons, of which the Former Soviet Union has about 770 billion tons and Canada about 510 billion tons.

**Substitutes:** Natural organic materials may be composted and compete in certain applications. The superior water-holding capacity and physiochemical properties of peat limit substitution alternatives.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix A for conversion to short tons.

<sup>2</sup>Defined as production + imports - exports + adjustments for industry stocks.

<sup>3</sup>Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix C for definitions.

<sup>5</sup>Included with "Other countries."