

## PEAT

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise noted)

**Domestic Production and Use:** The estimated free on board (f.o.b.) mine value of marketable peat production in the conterminous United States was \$13 million in 2018. Peat was harvested and processed by about 31 companies in 12 conterminous States. Florida, Minnesota, and Michigan were the leading producing States, in order of quantity harvested. Reed-sedge peat accounted for approximately 85% of the total volume produced, followed by sphagnum moss with 13%. 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.

<b><u>Salient Statistics—United States:</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018<sup>e</sup></u></b>
Production	468	455	441	498	500
Commercial sales	479	460	443	515	530
Imports for consumption	994	1,150	1,130	1,150	1,200
Exports	29	28	30	30	33
Consumption, apparent <sup>1</sup>	1,390	1,620	1,590	1,520	1,700
Price, average value, f.o.b. mine, dollars per ton	24.97	28.39	31.97	27.55	24.00
Stocks, producer, yearend	222	179	125	222	200
Employment, mine and plant, number <sup>e</sup>	550	550	550	540	540
Net import reliance <sup>2</sup> as a percentage of apparent consumption	66	72	72	67	70

**Recycling:** None.

**Import Sources (2014–17):** Canada, 95%; and other, 5%.

<b><u>Tariff:</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Normal Trade Relations</u></b>
			<b><u>12–31–18</u></b>
	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. In the United States, the short-term outlook is for production to average about 500,000 tons per year and imported peat from Canada is expected to continue to account for more than 70% of domestic consumption.

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Based on estimated world production for 2018, the world's leading producers were, in descending order of production, Finland, Belarus, Germany, Ireland, and Sweden, with about 35%, 9%, 9%, 9%, and 8%, respectively. Belarus' 2018 peat production increased significantly when compared to the previous year's production, making it Europe's second leading producer. Ireland's peat production is expected to decrease over the coming years owing to the country's transition to alternative fuel sources.

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

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>3</sup>
	2017	2018 <sup>e</sup>	
United States	498	500	150,000
Belarus	1,520	2,600	2,600,000
Canada	1,670	1,700	720,000
Estonia	588	600	60,000
Finland	9,970	9,900	6,000,000
Germany	3,300	2,500	( <sup>4</sup> )
Ireland	2,500	2,500	( <sup>4</sup> )
Latvia	1,740	1,700	150,000
Lithuania	418	400	210,000
Poland	900	900	( <sup>4</sup> )
Russia	960	960	1,000,000
Sweden	2,240	2,200	( <sup>4</sup> )
Ukraine	600	600	( <sup>4</sup> )
United Kingdom	700	700	( <sup>4</sup> )
Other countries <sup>e</sup>	540	540	1,400,000
World total (rounded)	28,100	28,000	12,000,000

**World Resources:** 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% annually 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 that country. Reserves data were estimated based on data from International Peat Society publications and the percentage of peat resources available for peat extraction. 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.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Defined as production + imports – exports + adjustments for industry stock changes.

<sup>2</sup>Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for industry stock changes.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

<sup>4</sup>Included with "Other countries."