



Canadian Peat

Ideal for Growing. For Generations to Come.

October 12, 2023

MSC Annual Meeting



Canadian Sphagnum
Peat Moss Association

Association canadienne
de la tourbe de sphaigne

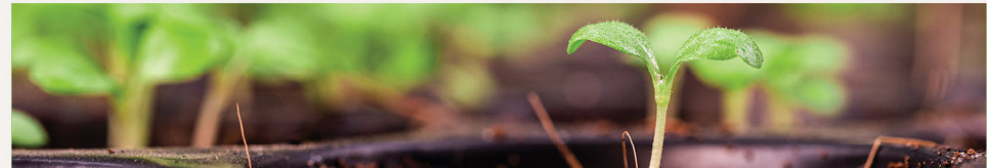
Outline

- Introduction
- Goals
- History and Role of CSPMA
- Misconceptions – T or F
- Facts Sheets Highlights
 - Peatland Science and Bog Restoration
 - GHGs from Peat Extraction
 - Veriflora® Certification
 - Alternatives and the Wise Use of Peat
- Q&A
- Conclusion



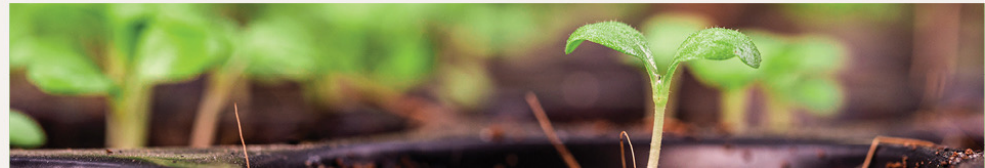
Introduction

- Asha Hingorani, CSPMA President
- Michel Guay, CSPMA Board Member, Senior VP, PT



Goals

- Increase knowledge and understanding of the Horticultural Peat Extraction Industry from a North American Context
- Provide science-based facts, clear the air on misconceptions and answer key questions



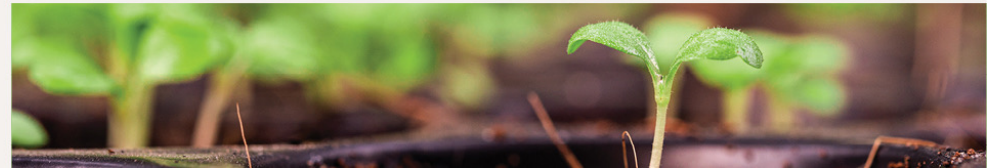
History and Role of CSPMA



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- Founded in 1989
- Represents 90% of extraction by Canadian horticultural peat moss producers
- Promotes the responsible management of Canadian peatlands and the Wise Use of Peat
- Worldwide recognized leadership in environmental stewardship as well as societal and economic well-being from the use of peatlands



CSPMA's Research Partnerships

- Long-lasting research partnerships
- Creation of the PERG
- Research investment totaling \$20 million
- Focus on functions: Biodiversity, Hydrology and GHG



Researchers with Complementary Expertise



Dr. Rochefort

Peatland plant
ecology



Dr. Price

Wetland
hydrology



Dr. Strack

C biogeo-
chemistry



Dr. Whittington

Hydromorphic
setting



Dr. Shoty

Geo-
chemistry



Dr. Devito

Landscape
ecohydrology



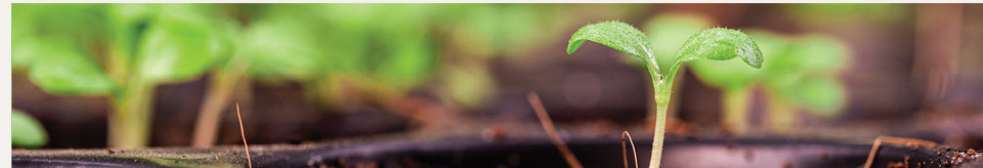
Dr. Godbout

Irrigation
systems



Dr. T. Simon

Soil science



RE3 Conference – June 23

International recognition for the Canadian Horticultural Peat Industry



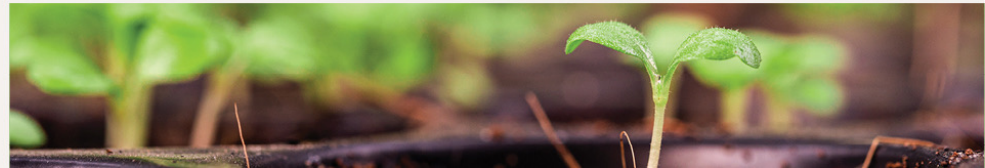
Misconceptions - True or False

“Peatlands are the world’s largest terrestrial storer of carbon, even more than forests. Though they cover only 3 percent of land and forests cover 30 percent, peatlands store twice as much carbon.”

“Some European countries plan to ban the sale of peat.”

“Peat extraction contributes over 1 billion metric tons of climate-changing CO2 emissions per year.”

“Around the world, peat has been collected in large quantities and sold for gardening and used as fuel.”



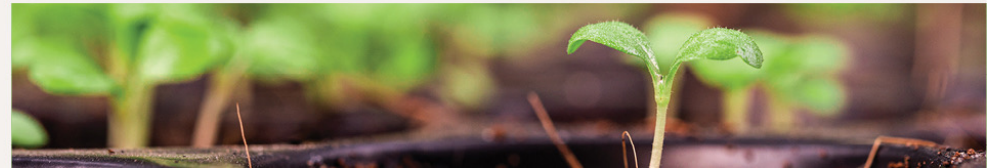
Misconceptions - True or False

“Peat extraction permanently destroys peatlands.”

“Plans for large-scale mining extraction in Northern Canada directly threatens the world’s largest peatland complex.”

“Many options are available in terms of alternatives offering similar characteristics to Peat with much less impact.”

“With regard to peat's environmental footprint, the benefits of its use as food security and well-being are greater than its GHG cost.”

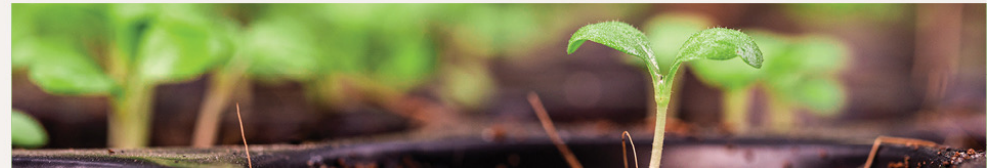




Peatland Science & Bog Restoration

Facts: Peatland Science & Bog Restoration

- **Restoration Approach:** The Moss Layer Transfer Technique (MLTT)
- **Return of peatlands to their original ecological functions:**
 - **Plants vegetation re-establishment timeline:** 3 to 5 years
 - **Return of the carbon sink timeline:** 10 to 15 years
 - **Biodiversity returns:** Variable
- **Restoring the Canadian Peatlands:** 67% of the Horticultural Peat Industry post-production areas have been restored or reclaimed as of 2021
- **MLTT inspiring other industries, globally**



5 years post-restoration



GRET 2005

19 years post-restoration



2 000 ha peatlands restored with the MLTT



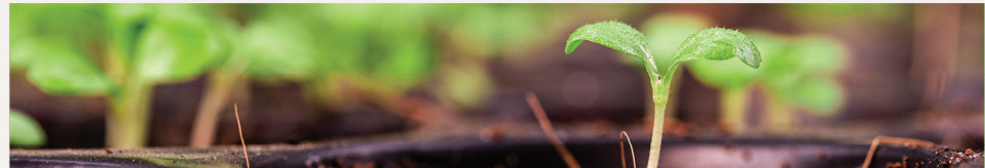
GRET 2005



Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Extraction

Facts: GHG Emissions from Peat Extraction

- 20 years of research on GHGs
- **Carbon sink role return confirmed:** Peatlands restored have their GHG function returned
- **Peat extraction represents a very small percentage of the peatland disturbance:** only 1% of the peatland area is disturbed by anthropic activities in Canada. Agriculture (63%), Mining (18%), Hydropower reservoirs (12%), and Forestry (3%)
- **GHG emissions:** GHG emissions attributable to land-use changes due to peat extraction on Canadian peatlands represent 1.9 Mt CO₂-C annually

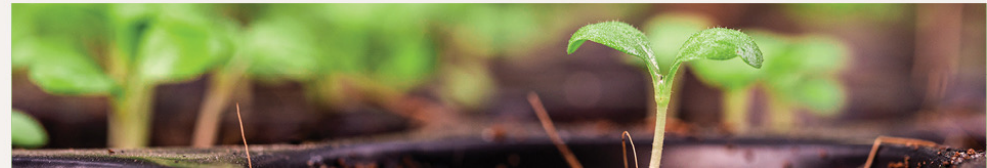




Veriflora® Responsibly Managed Peatlands Certification

Facts: Veriflora[®] Certification

- **Independent certification:** SCS Global
- **SCS Global stringent conditions:** Goes further than many regulatory requirements from various levels of government
- **Best management principles developed and applied:** The standards represent guidelines to reach and foster the development of Best Management Practices and innovative tools
- **Certification support by the producers: + 80%**



Providing the Facts to Growers and Consumers



The Horticultural Peat found in this packaging has been extracted from bogs that are certified under the Veriflora® Responsibly Managed Peatlands program. This certification demonstrates our commitment to the application of good management principles in all aspect of sustainable development including, ecosystem protection, social engagement, and product quality.





Alternative Materials and the Wise Use of Peat

Facts: Alternatives and the Wise Use of Peat

Facts relative to Peat:

- **Long term preferred growing media:** Unmatched characteristics
- **Used by:** Professional growers (70%), gardeners (30%)
- **Used for:** Flowers, fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, cannabis, soil improvement and reforestation
- **Essential for:** Food security and well-being
- **Financial Impact of replacing Peat:** 18B\$ in GDP



Facts: Alternatives and the Wise Use of Peat

Facts relative to alternatives/extenders:

- **Limitations:** Variable suitability for growing, availability, risks, cost, sustainability, and environmental footprint
- **Frequently incompatible with adequate plant cultivation:** The chemical analysis of most show results incompatible with adequate plant cultivation
- **Increased demand for alternatives:** The proportion of alternatives blended with Peat will continue to grow over the years to ensure demand is fulfilled
- **Alternatives + Peat is the best combination:** All alternatives benefit from the unique properties of peat with peat acting as an “enabler”





Q & A



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Conclusion

Canadian Peat: Ideal for Growing. For Generations to Come.

Connect with Asha at asha@peatmoss.com



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