

Peat is one of the most important raw material for growing media. The growing media industry is working on the development and application of renewable materials. These materials will increasingly play a role in growing media, the prospect however is that peat will remain an indispensable and appreciated resource for a long time to come. It is up to the industry itself to convince society and governments that peat for growing media can be produced and applied responsibly.

Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP); criteria and transparency

The message of Foundation Responsibly Produced Peat is clear: RPP certification does not allow peat extraction from valuable peatlands with High Conservation Values and negative impact on these areas is to be prevented. In addition, RPP strongly prioritises extraction from degraded peatlands and restoration after extraction.

Multi-stakeholder involvement

RPP is an initiative with stakeholder involvement, including environmental NGOs. In good cooperation, experts have established a reliable and transparent certification system for responsible peat extraction. Collaboration by parties is also the basis for credibility and trust.

Tool for communication

RPP-certification is a common tool for communication within the peat industry as well as to other stakeholders, including authorities and (retail) organisations. RPP is considered as the recognizable standard for responsible peat production throughout Europe.

License to produce (acceptance society)

The availability of peat for growing media is important as long as alternatives are not available in sufficient quality and quantities. The current expectation is that it will take many years to work on suitable alternatives, mostly because it is hard to find the combination of the properties 'high quality', 'available' and 'affordable' in one product (or a combination of products). Alternatives should not only have equal properties but should also meet future requirements and be renewable products with a low ecological footprint.

At the same time, environmental organisations stress to stop peat extraction activities to mitigate CO₂- emissions and loss of biodiversity (and this pressure has increased as a consequence of the Paris climate agreement).

RPP-certified peat is the answer for responsible use of peat as a valuable constituent in growing media: As long as adequate alternatives are not available, use peat that is produced responsibly!

Reputation building

With RPP-certification, you show to society and your customers that you're taking your responsibilities towards the environment before, during and after peat production.

Good reasons for RPP-certification



Goal: RPP mainstream

The impact and credibility of 'Responsibly Produced Peat' is fully depending on the number of affiliated companies and certified excavation sites. The more certifications, the more RPP will be a recognizable standard in Europe and the better RPP can function as a communication tool for responsible production and use of peat.

The success of RPP also depends on your participation. You contribute to the position of RPP by certifying your peat extraction site and applying RPP-certified peat in your growing media. Responsibly Produced Peat can make the difference in acceptance and understanding by society and politicians for the use of valuable peat resources. Broad support from companies in the growing media industry are a condition for success.