



Peat reduction: Case Germany

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Germany produces more than 11 Mio. m³ of growing media each year and takes a leading role in the European growing media industry. Peat is still one of the most important constituents in composites although the proportion of other materials is increasing.

The German government, however, announced a peat reduction strategy for the coming years. The goals are: peat free in consumer products by 2026 and in professional growing media by 2030. The measure was justified with the climate action plan for 2030.

The German growing media industry published a self-commitment to reduce peat within the next years. For consumer products the goals are to reduce the amount of peat to 50% in 2025 and to 30% in 2030 and for professional products to 80% in 2025 and to 70% in 2030.

This self-commitment was linked to a number of challenges that need to be solved at political level to enable the growing media industry getting hold of more raw material for growing media constituents. In addition, the German federal ministry in charge established a round table of environmentalists, horticultural industry and growing media industry to find solutions and ways to meet the governmental goals by 2026 and 2030 respectively.

The primary goal of reducing peat is to reduce CO₂ emissions, while the emissions from the German growing media industry were about 1.2 Mio. t CO₂e in 2018 and accounted for 0.13% of the total German greenhouse gas emissions.

The growing media industry and the government agree, that the amount of peat being used in growing media needs to be reduced during the next years. However, there is no consensus on the timeline.