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How can RPP contribute to sustainable solutions?



Foundation Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP) has developed a transparent certification scheme with principles and criteria for the responsible production of peat for horticulture. RPP certification means that:

1. Natural peatlands with High Conservation Values are left untouched and only degraded peatlands shall be selected for peat production.
2. The area will be given the best possible destination after use for peat production, with maximum environmental benefits and including climate mitigation,
3. Full stakeholder consultation (including local communities and eNGOs) is required before selection of the peatland as well as for choosing the best after-use destination

Companies must demonstrably meet the RPP criteria to show responsible choices and behaviour regarding peat production. Compliance is checked by an independent inspector with sound knowledge of peatland ecology. RPP is a multi-stakeholder organisation with representatives of the peat industry, peatland science and NGOs in both the Board and in the Committee of Experts.

The global demand for growing media is strongly increasing and it is the expectation is that for the time being, peat will continue to be used in combination with renewable and circular raw materials. Responsible sourcing of raw materials for growing media includes many aspects: environmental quality, availability, phytosanitary, safety, economical and suitability for a specific crop. If peat has to be used, it should be produced responsibly. In this context using RPP-certified peat can play an important role on the route to sustainable growing media production.

RPP makes peat production companies think about environmental responsibilities like which actions to take to mitigate negative impacts of peat production or choosing for the best after-use option. RPP also has criteria for the Chain of Custody (CoC), the trade of the raw material or peat-based growing media. By participation in the RPP-CoC, awareness about responsible production and sourcing is further spread among users of peat and peat-based growing media.

Growing Media Europe strongly encourages their members to use RPP-certified peat. Likewise, the members of the Dutch association of growing media producers (the VPN) have committed to using 100% RPP-certified peat by 2025.

RPP is experiencing a strong increase in applications for certification and is growing fast into the direction of becoming mainstream in Europe which is necessary to have widespread impact and recognition.