

## HARVESTING PEAT MOSS AND SUBSTRATE PRODUCTION PROCES FOR THE FREE PEAT/ NEVEMA/EGMOND COMPANY

### Step 1: Preparing the land

A drainage canal is dug around the perimeter of the peat land to remove the water. The surface vegetation is removed using a cultivator, and placed on the sections of peat land to be restored. The terrain is flattened with a leveler. Finally, at widths of 100 to 200 feet (depending on the harvesting method used), a series of parallel shallow canals are dug to allow the water to drain and draw the moisture out of the peat moss.

### Step 2: Drying the land

A thin layer of peat moss is dried using a harrow to create air circulation at the surface. The drying process is faster when the weather is sunny and there is a light wind. One to three days later, the layer of peat moss is ready to harvest. If there has been rainfall, however, the drying process must be started again from the beginning.

After all preparations are made, certification of the bogs and the peat products are applied for at several official organisations to ensure professional quality marks. These organizations include: RHP, RPP, IPS a.o. All our peat products are certified before commercial use and harvesting is done in an environmental friendly way.

<http://www.responsiblyproducedpeat.org/>



<https://www.rhp.nl>



### Step 3: Harvesting

#### Vacuum method (milled peat)

The vacuum method, which is fairly similar to the mechanical method, consists of harvesting the younger blond peat moss layer by layer, a few millimeters at a time. The peat moss is vacuumed into a large cylindrical receptacle to be stockpiled in windrows near the facility. The material is handled with care to preserve the coarse fibers and sifted carefully before being incorporated into various mixes for professional horticultural use (greenhouse / nursery growers).



#### Block-sods method

The sodding method is a special in which peat moss is cut into blocks of uniform size with a cutting machine. The blocks are then placed in rows on the surface of the peat land and left over winter. The cold and ice increase air circulation, causing the organic material to dry out faster. The following summer, the rows of blocks are piled a second time to ensure that they dry out uniformly. Only 2 or 3 months later can the dried blocks be harvested whole and brought to the facilities.

### STEP 4 : Substrate production

In our 3 Substrate factories ( 1 x Estonia and 2 x the Netherlands) the peat is mixed with other peat types, additives like clay, perlite or sand and screened to specification of the client. Fertilizer is added and the pH is controlled by adding lime. The finished product can now be transported in Bulk, or volume packing such as bags (5L to 80L), bales (230L/300L) or bigbales (6000L).



The product is trucked to greenhouse producers or retail centers or it is prepared for export in ocean containers and shipped worldwide.

- Total peat harvest/production 1.500.000 m3/annually
- 40ft cntrs eq. shipped annually: 4000
- Harvesting area in 3 countries: 3000ha. (30.000.000m2)

