

INDUSTRIEVERBAND GARTEN E. V. (IVG)

GÜTEGEMEINSCHAFT SUBSTRATE FÜR PFLANZEN E. V. (GGS)

EVALUATION OF GERMAN GROWING MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR CONSUMER AND PROFESSIONAL USE IN 2023

DÜSSELDORF | APRIL 2024



SALES FIGURES FOR SUBSTRATES PRODUCED IN GERMANY IN 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION ON SALES FIGURES 2023



- 🌿 Our members sold 7.9 million m³ of substrates/growing media in 2023. (In 2022 the value was 8.1 million m³.)
- 🌿 The main sales were done in the German market. Around 4 million m³ for the retail sector and 1.8 million m³ of growing media for the professional sector were sold.
- 🌿 In addition, about 2.1 million m³ of substrates were exported.
- 🌿 The production includes around 1.1 million m³ of peat-free substrates (1 million m³ in the hobby sector and 100,000 m³ for commercial horticulture).
- 🌿 The share of peat-free products in the consumer sector (total) has decreased to 20.7 % (2022: 22.4 %). In the professional sector it is 3.5 % (2022: 3 %).

GERMAN SALES OF GROWING MEDIA 2023

 **7.9 million m³**

RETAIL

PROFESSIONAL

	4.0 mio. m ³	1.8 mio. m ³
	0.8 mio. m ³	1.3 mio. m ³



USE OF RAW MATERIALS IN THE PRODUCTION OF SUBSTRATES IN GERMANY

IN 2023



GENERAL INFORMATION ON PEAT USE IN THE GERMAN GROWING MEDIA PRODUCTION IN 2023

- ✔ In absolute terms, 5.2 million m³ of peat was used for growing media production in Germany in 2023.
- ✔ In addition, there were 3.6 million m³ of other organic raw materials used.
- ✔ The proportion of peat in growing media for the consumer market (average for Germany) has decreased to 41% (2022: 43%).
- ✔ The proportion of peat in growing media for the German market is 73% after a value of 77% in the previous year.
- ✔ 40 % of the peat used is RPP-certified.



EMISSIONS FROM PEAT USE IN 2023

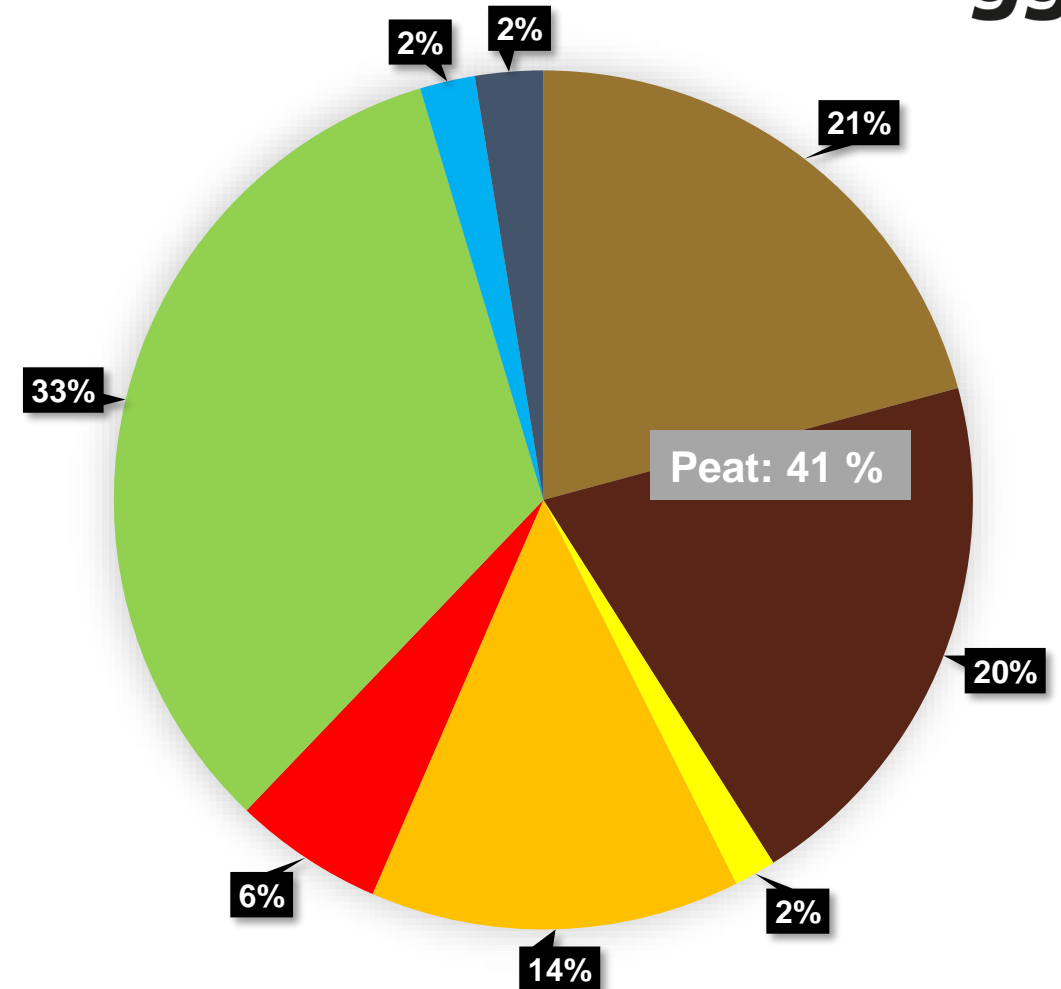
- A small part of the emissions comes from the extracting areas (“on-site”), the larger part escapes over time during the horticultural use of the peat through its oxidation (“off-site”).
- To calculate the “off-site” emissions from peat, the entire amount of greenhouse gases released is allocated to the year of extraction.
- The emissions are accounted for according to the territorial principle in the country where the extraction takes place (UNFCCC, 2020).
- The calculated emission factors are 0.183 for white peat and 0.2567 t CO₂ equivalents per m³ of peat for black peat.
- The use of peat in German substrate production (2.8 million m³ black peat & 2.4 million m³ white peat) caused a total theoretical emission of approximately 1.15 million t CO₂ equivalents in 2023.
- Since the emissions from imported peat (approx. 50%, especially white peat) have to be attributed to the peat extracting countries according to national climate reporting, the actual value for German peat production is reduced to around 0.7 million t CO₂ equivalents (0.1 % of Germanys total emissions).

GROWING MEDIA CONSTITUENTS FOR CONSUMER USE FOR THE GERMAN MARKET 2023

	Quantity in m ³
GREEN WASTE COMPOST	1.455.000
WHITE PEAT	911.000
BLACK PEAT	885.000
WOOD FIBRES	610.000
COMPOSTED BARK	247.000
COIR PRODUCTS (COCOPEAT)	69.000
OTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS ⁽¹⁾	91.000
MINERAL CONSTITUENTS ⁽²⁾	112.000

(1) PINE BARK, WOOD, COMPOSTED WOOD AND FURTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS

(2) PERLITE, FRESH CLAY, GRANULATED CLAY, EXPANDED CLAY, SAND, LAVA, PUMICE, LOAM AND OTHER MINERAL CONSTITUENTS

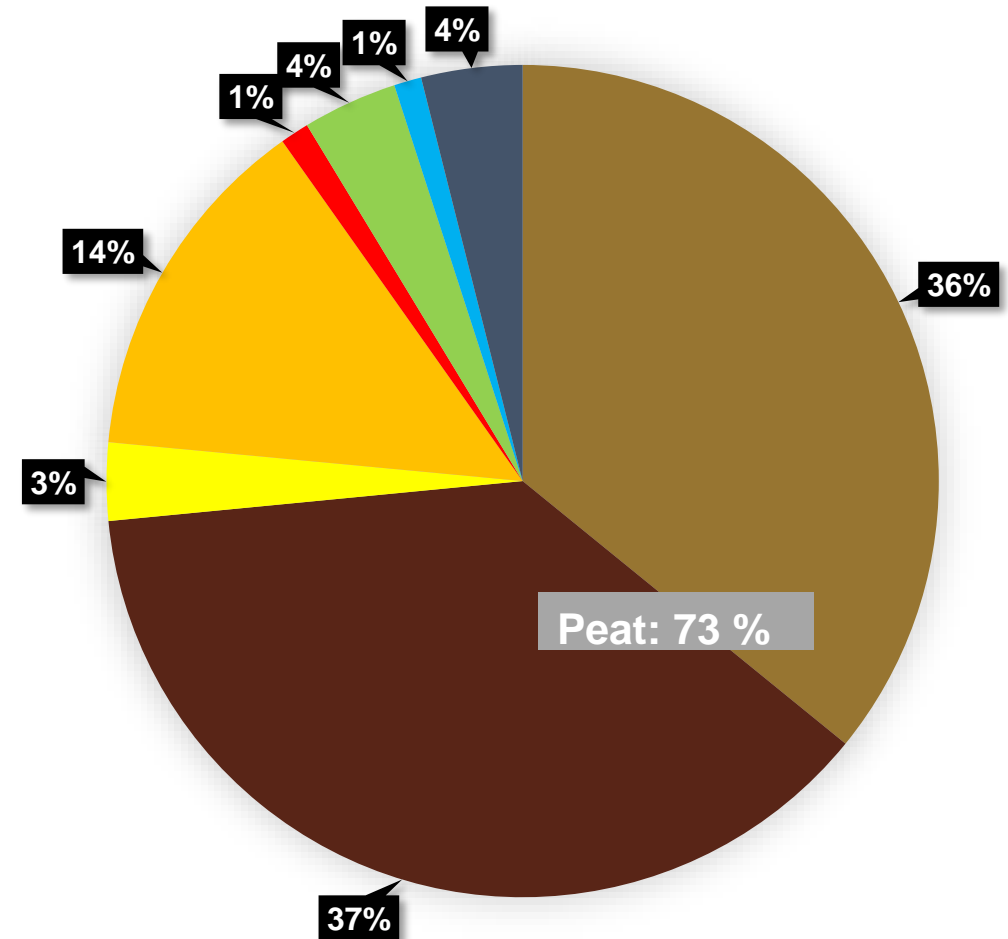


GROWING MEDIA CONSTITUENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL USE FOR THE GERMAN MARKET 2023

	Quantity in m ³
BLACK PEAT	758.000
WHITE PEAT	723.000
WOOD FIBRES	276.000
GREEN WASTE COMPOST	74.000
COIR PRODUCTS (COCOPEAT)	61.000
COMPOSTED BARK	23.000
OTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS ⁽¹⁾	21.000
MINERAL CONSTITUENTS ⁽²⁾	79.000

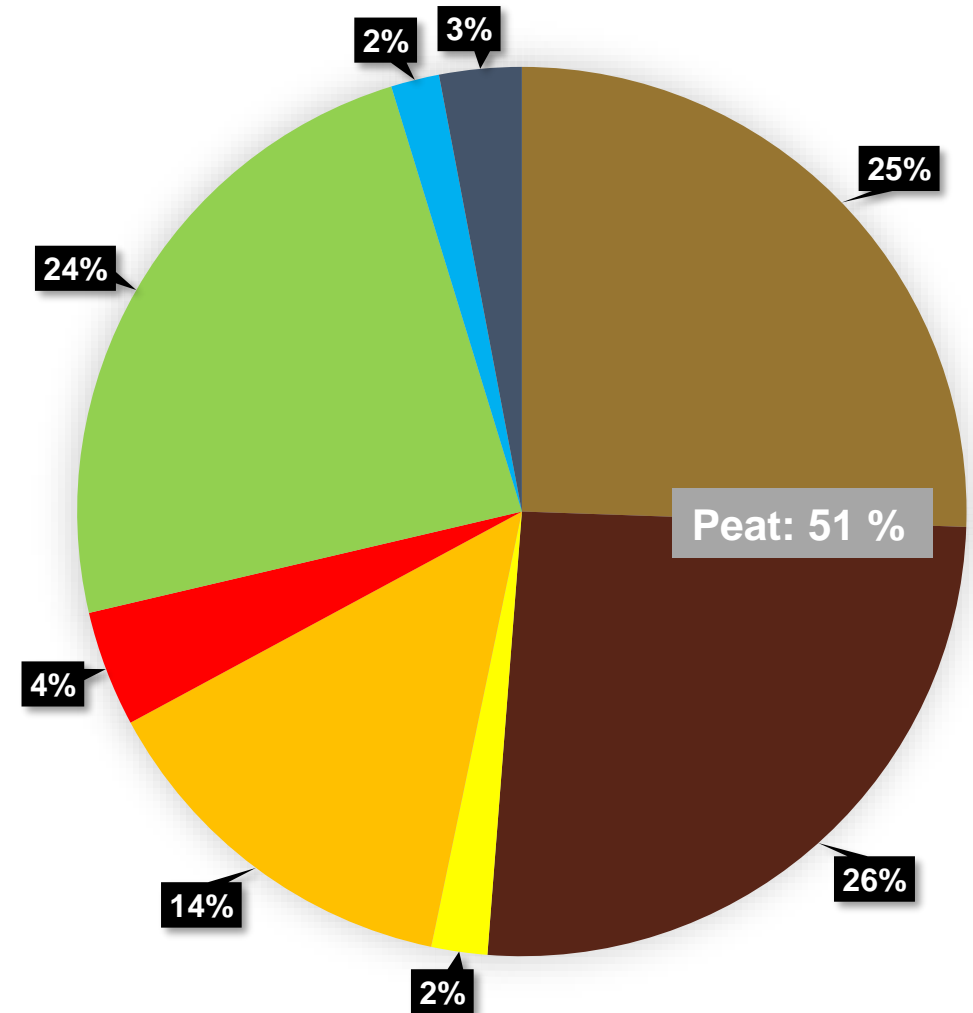
(1) PINE BARK, WOOD, COMPOSTED WOOD AND FURTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS

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GROWING MEDIA CONSTITUENTS FOR CONSUMER & PROFESSIONAL USE FOR THE GERMAN MARKET 2023

	Quantity in m ³
BLACK PEAT	1.643.000
WHITE PEAT	1.634.000
GREEN WASTE COMPOST	1.530.000
WOOD FIBRES	887.000
COMPOSTED BARK	270.000
COIR PRODUCTS (COCOPEAT)	130.000
OTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS ⁽¹⁾	112.000
MINERAL CONSTITUENTS ⁽²⁾	191.000
TOTAL*	6.397.000



(1) PINE BARK, WOOD, COMPOSTED WOOD AND FURTHER ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS

(2) PERLITE, FRESH CLAY, GRANULATED CLAY, EXPANDED CLAY, SAND, LAVA, PUMICE, LOAM AND OTHER MINERAL CONSTITUENTS

(*) DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO SUBSTRATE SALES IN 2023

CONCLUSION

Peat is still the most important component of potting soil and growing media for professional use. In terms both of extraction and of exploitation peat decomposes and releases the bound carbon over some time. In the light of climate policy objectives, the German politics is pushing for a reduction in peat use.

As the Garden Industry Association (IVG) has noted, the reduction targets for peat in growing media for consumer and professional use that have been fixed in a voluntary commitment for 2025, were already met in 2021.

- [Link: Position paper on further peat reduction \(April 2022\)](#)
- [Link: Clarification about peat use in substrates for the German market \(March 2024\)](#)

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