

Contact: Paul Short
1-888-873-7328
paul.short@peatmoss.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian harvest of Peat Moss: 2014 as of August 31

ST. ALBERT, Alberta, Canada (September 15, 2014)

The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA), whose members represent approximately 95 percent of all North American peat production, has an important announcement regarding the level of harvest for the 2014 season.

A survey of CSPMA members was conducted on August 31 regarding the status of their 2014 Actual Harvest (including an estimate of what can be expected to be harvested for the remainder of the season) as a percentage of their 2014 Expected Harvest.

In general, the harvest season has been challenging, with lower than expected harvest across most production regions due, primarily, to adverse weather conditions across Canada.

In Eastern Canada (NB & PEI), the largest peat producing region in Canada, the industry is considerably below average in its expected harvest volumes. (New Brunswick North 61%, New Brunswick South 67% and PEI 65%). A delayed start to the harvest season combined with a wet summer has significantly reduced production volumes.

In Québec's North Shore (98%), the results are more favourable with the majority of members meeting their expectations. The harvest on Québec's South Shore (105%) is at or slightly above expectations for most producers. This is primarily due to a mid - late summer occurrence of good harvest weather.

The Prairie Provinces (MB, SK & AB), have experienced a below average harvest (Manitoba 73%, Saskatchewan 70%, Alberta 71%) primarily due to adverse weather. These numbers are significantly below expectations.

Further adjustments to this release may be made dependent on the ability to harvest in the fall season. The industry had lower than normal carryover inventory volumes, particularly in the west, from the 2013 harvest season. As such, many members are less able to absorb the harvest shortfall than has been the case in prior years.

As in the past, the CSPMA members are committed to working cooperatively with their commercial business partners to minimize the disruptions from the adverse harvest season.

###