

Value and Values of Responsible Peatland Management in Canada and North America.

IPS Summit Meeting Presentation
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Abstract:

Presentation of the current economic and social values of the Canadian horticultural peat industry. Discussion of the economic contribution of the current production program within Canada to the Canadian economy. Additionally, information will be presented on the relative economic values within the United States of America, the principle market partner.

This information will be sourced from recently completed economic impact studies and literature searches of the importance of peat in North America.

The presentation will further examine the values exercised by the industry in its approach to responsible management of peatlands. The appreciation of the peatlands as a natural resource asset will be highlighted. The adoption of responsible peatlands management as the foundation for wise resource decision making will be discussed and examples of the adoption by government agencies will be noted.

Canada's views of the resource management requirements and how this differentiates our values of resource governance from the pan European perceptions of post harvest use will be noted.

Environmental values for peatland biodiversity, hydrology and greenhouse gas emissions form the foundation for our approach to responsible management and wise use. The Canadian industries commitment to peer reviewed independent research will be examined. The relationship to the adoption of best management practices and how these are influenced by the research findings will also be discussed.

The industries embracing of social as well as economic and environmental values will be noted. The combination of these collective values will then be discussed as they help to frame the industries sustainability journey and accountability.