Coir as a Growing Medium

Tom de Vesci
HORTICULTURAL COIR LTD

Growing Media

Growing Media

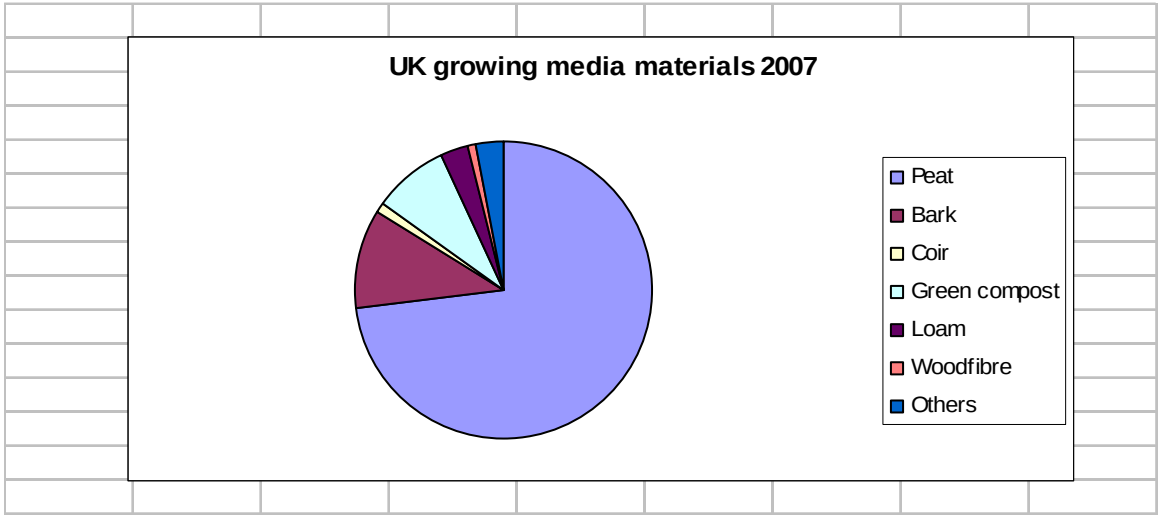
Requirements of Growing Media

- Stable Anchor for roots
- Absorb and Store water
- Air Porosity
- Nutrient Neutral
- Consistent quality
- Stable
- Safe – free from contaminants

Growing Media Materials

- Peat
- Bark
- Green Compost
- Coir
- Wood fibre
- Others

UK Growing Materials 2007



Peat and Alternatives 2007

- Soil Improvers (39%) and
- Growing Media (61%)

Combined use

- 2005 6.46 million m3
- 2007 6.61 million m3

Beetle

Blackfaced Darter

Bog Asphodel

Bog Rosemary

Carnivorous plants

Bog Cotton

Reasons to Conserve Peat Bogs

Wetland Habitats for Flora and Fauna

Reservoir of Archaeological information

Historical Record – pollen deposits

Water absorption – Flood prevention

Carbon Sink

Soils are an important store of carbon, with those in the UK containing around 10 million tonnes of carbon, half of which is found in our peat habitats. Losing this store to the atmosphere would create emissions that are equivalent to more than 50 times the UK's current annual greenhouse gas emissions

Hilary Benn, Minister for the Environment
September 2009

Use of Peat in Horticulture

- 98% Peat used in Growing Media
- 2% Peat used in Soil Improvers

Use of Materials

Amateur Gardeners 60%

Landscape Contractors 20%

Professional Growers 17%

Professional Sector

Annual use of Peat in Growing Media:

1 million m3

81% of Professional Growing Media is peat

Amateur Sector

Annual Peat Consumption

2.04 million m3

Which is 69% of the Total Peat used across all sectors

Proportion of peat in amateur gardening growing media products has reduced from

94% in 1999

to

72% in 2007

Wetlands cover 6% of the World's Land surface and contain about 12% of the world's global carbon pool

Wetlands and global climate change: The role of Wetland Restoration in a Changing World. Kevin L. Erwin

- Peatlands cover only 3% of the Earth's land surface but boreal and subartic peatlands store about 15 -30% of the world's soil carbon as peat

Wetlands and global climate change: The role of Wetland Restoration in a Changing World. Kevin L. Erwin

Biodiversity Action Programme

Targets for Peat reduction

40% by 2005

90% by 2010

Biodiversity Action Programme

Targets for Peat reduction

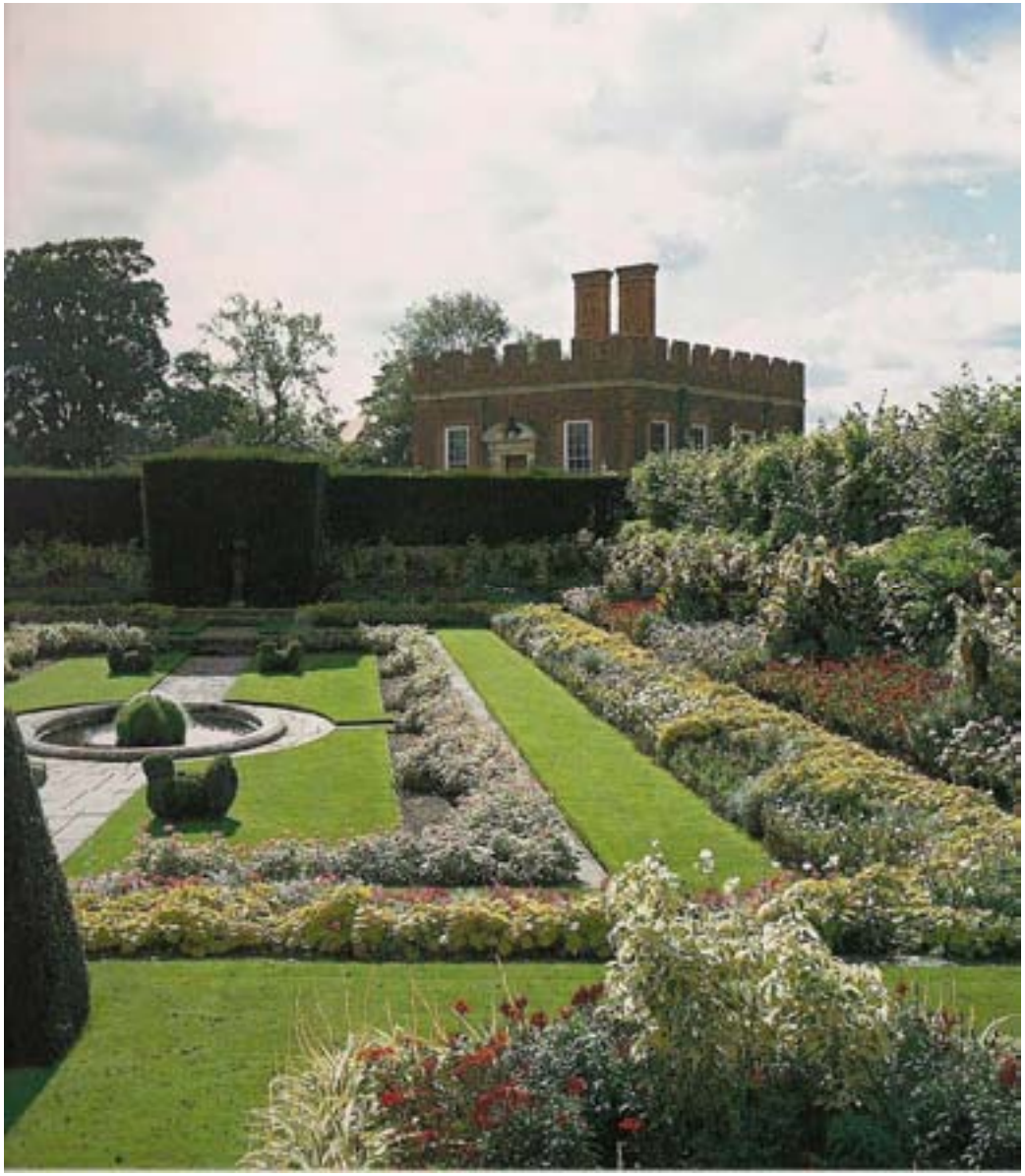
40% by 2005

Achieved largely by reduction of peat content in soil improvers

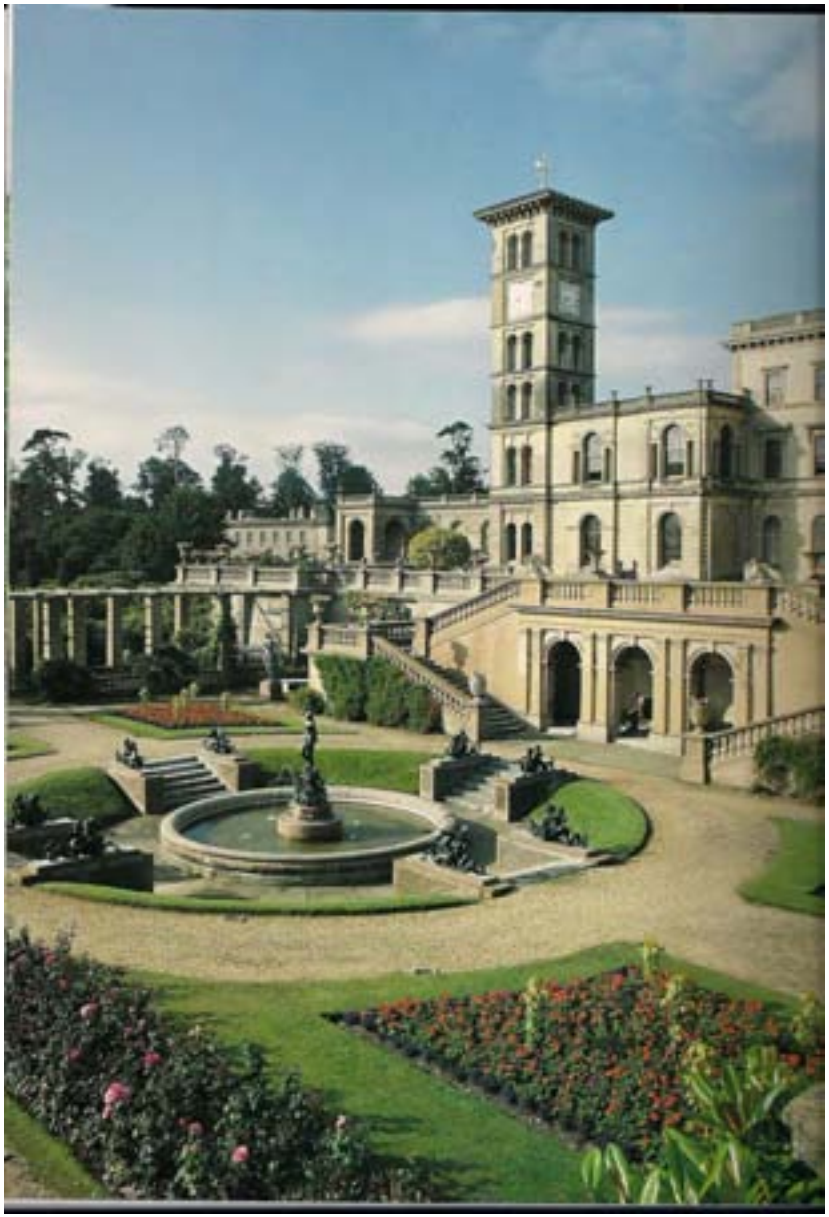
90% by 2010

Unlikely to be achieved

Hampton Court



Osborne House, Isle of Wight



Tsarskoe Selo, Russia

Coconut Tree

Coconut Husks

Coconut Husk & Coconut

Coconut Husks

Coconut Husk Heap

Coconut Husk is Retted with Water

Wetted Coconut Fibre and Pith

Coconut Husk Decorticator

Fibre is separated from Pith


4

Pith is sieved in Vibrating machine

Compacting Pith in a Hydraulic press


RMP

Finished product being packed for Export

MR TOM DE VESCI
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SW6 2JA

J488

[illegible]

RECTANGLES JAPAN HYPONEX

COMPOST SAMPLE

COMPOST ANALYSIS RESULTS

Laboratory Reference	
Report Number	[illegible]
Sample Number	[illegible]

Sample Reference :

BATCH NO1

Sample Matrix : COMPOST

Date Received	15-APR-2008
Date Reported	18-APR-2008

The sample submitted was of adequate size to complete all analysis requested.
The sample will be kept under refrigeration for at least 3 weeks.

ANALYTICAL RESULTS *on 'as received' basis*

Determinand	Value	Units	Determinand	Value	Units
pH 1:5	4.6		Conductivity 1:6	477	uS/cm
Density	346	kg/m3	Ammonia-N	24.0	mg/l
Dry Matter	14.7	%	Nitrate-N	226.0	mg/l
Dry Density	60.8	kg/m3	Total Soluble N	250.0	mg/l
Chloride	13.5	mg/l	Sulphate-S	117.2	mg/l
Phosphorus	46.5	mg/l	Boron	0.30	mg/l
Potassium	462.9	mg/l	Copper	0.19	mg/l
Magnesium	75.6	mg/l	Manganese	1.02	mg/l
Calcium	131.1	mg/l	Zinc	0.75	mg/l
Sodium	51.2	mg/l	Iron	2.8	mg/l

Water Soluble nutrients determined by extraction of 60mls in 300mls deionised water to EN13652.
Samples submitted under 1 litre will necessitate the use of scaled down equipment for density determination.
pH and Conductivity measurements are made at 20°C. I.S. = Insufficient Sample

Released by: *Liuba Kasabova* Principal Scientist Date: 18/04/08

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இங்கு
குழந்தை தொழிலாளர் இல்லை
NO CHILD LABOUR
IN OUR FACTORY


SIVANTHI JOE

Coir pith Exports from India