

Chemical Characteristics

The four samples of peat have a typical low pH of an unlimed peat (range 4.1 - 4.9). The available nutrient levels are very low, as is typical of such peats, this is desirable horticulturally as nutrient levels can then be manipulated by the addition of fertilisers to achieve the desired ratios. There is no evidence of any chemical contamination, as expected.

Conclusions

The top layer of peat may have some potential in an amateur gardening seed/multipurpose compost but would be less suitable for professional growers, due to the fine particle size, low Air-filled Porosity and contamination with sand. The lower layers of peat appear to be too highly decomposed and water-logged to be useful horticulturally and would appear to contain remnants of petrified wood.

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