

Quality Parameters for Sphagnum Peat (RAL-GZ 250/5-2)


Quality Parameters	Range of Values				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 Physical properties					
1.1 Degree of decomposition according to von POST	H2-H4	H3-H5	H4-H6	H5-H7	H6-H8
Assessment of degree of decomposition	weakly decomposed	weakly-moderately decomposed	moderately decomposed	moderately - strongly decomposed	strongly decomposed
1.2 Water capacity of organic content [g/100 g]	≥ 900	≥ 700 - 900	≥ 550 - 700	≥ 400 - 550	≥ 350 - 400
1.3 Bulk density (dry) [g/l]	to be analyzed				
1.4 Dry matter [weight %]	to be analyzed				
2 Chemical properties					
2.1 pH value	≤ 4.0 (CaCl ₂ suspension)		≤ 4.5 (water suspension)		
2.2 Salinity [g/l]	≤ 0.5				
Alternative: electrical conductivity [mS/cm]	≤ 0.175 (extraction ratio 1+3.6)		≤ 0.50 (extraction ratio 1+1.5)		
2.3 Soluble nutrients ¹⁾					
2.3.1 Nitrogen (NH ₄ -N+NO ₃ N) [mg/l]	≤ 50				
2.3.2 Phosphorus (P ₂ O ₅) [mg/l]	≤ 30 (CAT extract)		≤ 50 (CAL extract)		
2.3.3 Potassium (K ₂ O) [mg/l]	≤ 40 (CAT extract)		≤ 50 (CAL extract)		
2.4 Organic content [% DM]	≥ 90				
2.5 Total content of heavy metals					
2.5.1 Arsenic (As) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 40				
2.5.2 Lead (Pb) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 150				
2.5.3 Cadmium (Cd) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 1.5				
2.5.4 Chromium (Cr) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 300				
2.5.5 Nickel (Ni) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 80				
2.5.6 Mercury (Hg) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 1				
2.5.7 Thallium (Tl) [mg/kg DM]	≤ 1				
3 Biological properties					
3.1 Plant damaging substances	no plant damaging effect				
3.2 Weed content	max. 1 germinating seed or sprouting plant / l of peat				
4 Other requirements					
4.1 Impurities > 2 mm (e.g. plastics, metal or glas)	none				
4.2 Stones > 10 mm	none				
4.3 Foreign odour	without foreign odour				
4.4 The temperature must be controlled during storage At temperatures > 35 °C suitable measures are to be taken in order to prevent further heating-up At temperatures > 50 °C the peat is no longer suitable as a growing media constituent					
5 On initiative by the Quality Committee					
Additional parameters that are not analysed frequently can be specified in a given case by the quality commission in consultation with the testing organisations involved.					
Declaration ²⁾					
Material	Sphagnum peat				
Type of peat	1 - 5				
production plant / provenance					

¹⁾ The nutrient contents must be declared if they are above the respective reference values.

²⁾ The requirements concerning the Fertiliser Ordinance must be taken into account.