

## Research of peat in Latvia

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Peat is a light brown to black organic material formed under waterlogged conditions from partial decomposition of mosses and other bryophytes, sedges, grasses, shrubs, or trees. Total area of bogs on Earth is approximately  $4 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> which is around 3% of the terrestrial area, and around 87% of those are in boreal and subarctic regions. The actuality of research is high as far as in Latvia 10.8% of territory are occupied by bogs, thus containing 0.4% of the total world peat reserves. About peat, peatlands, possible applications of peat and peat humic substances several studies have been done. We have described ombrothrophic and fen bogs, their differences, composition and properties of peat as well as peat humic substances. Without peat extraction and creation of new innovative products there are also important directions in field of restoration activities and development of paludification.