The Peat Reduction Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

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The Task:

Cope with climate change - EU to be carbon-neutral by 2050
- > long-term strategy
Production of Peat in Germany

→ Peat is continuously depleted
  still about 10,000 ha in Lower Saxony in use
  production ~ 8 Mio. m³

→ Very few new exploration rights
Consumption of Peat in Germany

→ large peat export: 6.1 Mio. m³

→ About 4.9 Mio. m³ home consumption

→ of which
→ about 2.7 Mio. m³ in the professional sector
→ about 2.1 Mio. m³ for private uses
Climate Protection Plan 2050

- Use of peat as growing media or soil improver in the in amateur gardening and landscape gardening can be reduced by advice and information

- guidelines for the use of peat substitutes in the procurement directives for public landscaping contracts

- advice and information measures for the professional sector

- research program on peat substitutes
Coalition Agreement

for the 19th legislative period

Establish a peat reduction strategy which provides climate friendly substitutes to peat

and do not

• annoy people
• risk the growing media industry
• harm horticultural production
Timeline

2016: Climate Protection Plan 2050

2017: Coalition Agreement

2018: beginning of ...
The Way Forward:

Replace peat in a manner which is
• social accepted
• ecological appropriate
• economical feasible
Social Acceptance

Climate change is a big issue in Germany
- but peat is not the major climate gas provider
- but peat is a well established production means since 60 years
but peat is a visible symbol for climate gas

major players are willing to adapt

- let’s talk with them!
Players on the field:

- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Growing media industry
- Substitute providers
- Professional gardeners
- Leisure gardeners
- Equipement providers
- Research
First steps

→ discussions with the individual horticultural sectors
   2 principles: ‘voluntariness’ and ‘transparency’

→ guidelines for the use of peat substitutes in the procurement directives for public landscaping contracts

→ Self commitment of the landscape contractors
Ecological Appropriate

Ecologic footprint of peat and its substitutes

- wood fibre
- coco mark
- compost (bark, landscape residues etc.)
- leonardit
  ...

research results not before 2021
Economic Feasibility

success indicators

competitiveness within the EU

availability of substitutes

knowledge generation

knowledge implementation
Timeline

2016: Climate Protection Plan 2050

2017: Coalition Agreement

2018: beginning of discussions with the sector

2019: demonstration projects for ornamental plant gardeners
   guidelines for public landscaping contracts
   decision on research projects

2020: research projects running
   information for consumers

the amateur gardening and landscape gardening sectors will end
peat use faster than the commercial horticulture
Thank you very much for your attention!