

## Make your whole garden thrive: how to use sphagnum peat moss

Now, in the spring, is a perfect time of year to condition soil. Here are some typical applications of Canadian sphagnum peat moss to make your flowers, plants, vegetables and shrubs thrive.

### Gardens

Work ample amounts of sphagnum peat moss into the first six inches of soil. One 6-cubic foot bale for every 150 square feet of garden area is about right for the average soil. If soil is heavy in sand or clay double the amount.

### Shrubs and Trees

When planting shrubs and trees, make sure the hole is about twice the diameter of the root ball. Fill the hole with water and allow to drain. Then mix equal parts of sphagnum peat moss and soil, fill the hole halfway and water thoroughly. Set shrub or tree in, loosen burlap covering and fill in around roots with remaining mixture of sphagnum peat moss and soil. Apply a three-inch layer of sphagnum peat moss mulch and water thoroughly.

### Mulching

Sphagnum peat moss is an excellent mulching material. Because of its unique structure, it provides insulation and permeability which keeps soil temperatures even, and virtually eliminates moisture loss and weeds. Spread a two-to-three inch layer of sphagnum peat moss around the base of shrubs, plants, trees and between rows in the gardens.

Remember that sphagnum peat moss is compressed into bales. When thoroughly

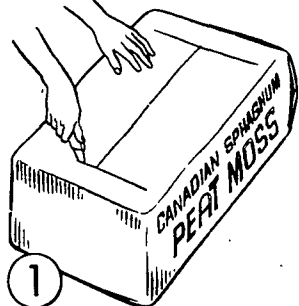
loosened, a bale equals twice its volume. Other type peat products are already loosened material sold by weight.

To compare value cor-

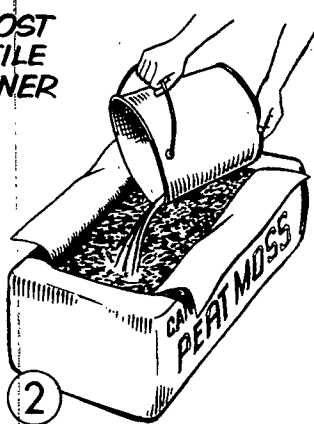
rectly, it must be understood that it takes five 40-pound bags of peat or peat humus to equal the bulk of one 4-cubic foot bale of sphagnum peat moss.

### CARE AND HANDLING OF SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS

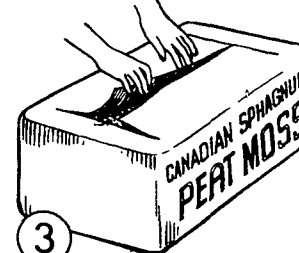
TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS VERSATILE SOIL CONDITIONER



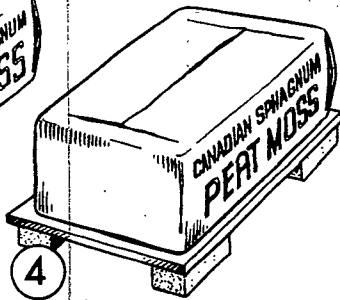
1 CUT AN "I" IN SIDE OF BALE TO FORM FLAPS WHICH GIVE EASY ACCESS AND CAN BE CLOSED BETWEEN USES.



2 POUR A PAIL OF WATER OVER PEAT MOSS. SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS SHOULD BE MOISTENED BEFORE USE FOR BEST RESULTS. HOT WATER ACTS QUICKER.



3 CLOSE FLAPS LOOSELY AFTER EACH USE TO KEEP PEAT MOSS CLEAN, BUT STILL DESIRABLY MOIST.



4 WHEN STORING OUTSIDE RAISE THE BALE SLIGHTLY OFF THE GROUND TO AVOID PUNCTURES.

## Get up, get out, clean up and shine

Spring is here and it's time to check on everything and anything that may need cleaning.

Now that the snow has melted away and the rain is falling, debris can get stuck in the gutters and cause poor drainage.

### Climb on up!

Pull out your ladder, get up on the roof and clean those gutters.

While you're up there, check your roof for any damage that might have occurred during the winter. Shingles may need to be replaced, cracks fixed, etc.

Spring is also a good time to inspect your house in general.

### 'Face lifts'

It may need a new coat of paint or bricks fixed. Shutters may also need repairing.

It's time to replace your storm windows with screens, too. Don't forget to wash those storm windows before storing, and check your screens for holes and rips before installing them to keep out the bugs that summer brings.

So, now that the sun is shining, make out your checklist for getting your home in shape for spring.

*Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;  
A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there,  
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere.  
Home, home, sweet, sweet home!  
There's no place like home!  
there's no place like home!*

—John Howard Payne

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## If you're under-insulated, you're overspending on fuel.



## INSULATION GUIDE

(Or how to save heating and cooling money year 'round)

Heating is the single greatest use of energy in your home. When you reduce the amount of energy used for heating, you will conserve energy and lower your fuel bills.

One of the ways to accomplish this is adding adequate insulation in your home. Insulation is simply a material that is resistant to heat flow, and should be used wherever the flow of heat needs to be minimized.

Heat always moves from warmer to cooler; and it moves through the air, and through solid objects such as walls and floors. This is called heat loss and refers to the amount of heat that moves out of a home. Insulation slows down this heat loss. Thus by adding insulation in the attic, basement, and to exposed walls, you can make a significant reduction in your energy consumption.

There are many types of insulation available. And some forms of insulation can be installed easily and economically by the homeowner. A complimentary copy of a booklet called "Insulation Guide" is available at your request. This booklet will advise do-it-yourselfers on the proper methods of installing various types of insulation materials. It also offers suggestions on weatherstripping and caulking to further reduce the amount of heat loss in your home.

Send for a copy today, and see how you can save heating and cooling money year 'round.

RG&E Dept. 34  
89 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14649

Please send me a copy of the "Insulation Guide."

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