

2026-03-12

PRESS RELEASE

No Tax on Swedish Horticultural Peat

The Swedish Peat Industry Association's comments on the Horticultural Peat Inquiry

The Horticultural Peat Inquiry (SOU 2026:18), from the Swedish Ministry of Finance, concludes that emissions from horticultural peat are limited and that emissions from peat extraction have no direct impact on Sweden's national climate targets, which was also the conclusion regarding peat extraction in SOU 2025:21.

- The fact that the inquiry shows that a production limiting tax on horticultural peat serves no real purpose is an important acknowledgement for the industry. It's also great news for everyone who wants to plant in peat based growing media with a clear conscience this spring," says Rickard Axdorff, Secretary General of the Swedish Peat Industry Association (Svensk Torv).

We also share the inquiry's assessment that there are no conditions under which a policy instrument targeting Swedish production of horticultural peat could contribute to Sweden's commitments under the LULUCF Regulation by 2030, nor that such an instrument could contribute to the long-term goal of net-zero by 2045.

- Of course, the physical relocation of peat from one place to another should not be taxed. At a time when increased livestock production and more cultivation are in demand, any attempt to restrict peat harvesting—which helps address these needs—is entirely outdated," says Rickard Axdorff.

Svensk Torv's ambition is to contribute to reduced carbon dioxide emissions in our region and in Europe. A national tax on horticultural peat would not achieve this; on the contrary, it risks increasing emissions through higher imports.

Expert Organisation

The Swedish Peat Industry Association has served as an expert organisation for the Horticultural Peat Inquiry. Our role has been to contribute factual and up-to-date information about the peat industry in Sweden and Europe, as well as facts and knowledge about peat as a natural product.

About the Swedish Peat Industry Association (Branschföreningen Svensk Torv):

Founded in 1999, the association brings together peat producers as well as users of peat in all areas: for cultivation and soil improvement in both professional horticulture and hobby gardening, as bedding and feed in animal husbandry, for energy purposes, and as activated carbon and filtration material for purification.

Peat Facts Sweden:

- Of approximately 6.3 million hectares of peatland in Sweden, 0.2% is used for peat extraction.
- Peat extraction in 2024 amounted to approximately 2 million cubic metres.
- Long-term peat accumulation in Sweden is roughly ten times higher than the annual extraction.

For more information: Rickard Axdorff, Secretary-General, Svensk Torv, +46 70 678 96 00, rickard.axdorff@svensktorv.se