

What is *Biogreen*TM Peat?

All peat is organic (plant) matter that is decomposed and compressed to the point that its plant origins are no longer recognisable or identifiable. Peat formation is slow, taking hundreds or thousands of years, and is possible only when the rate at which dead plant matter accumulates exceeds rate of decomposition, and the conditions are just right – lots of water and little air. This is why peatlands are usually wet, boggy places.

There are two major classes of peat worldwide -

- ***Sphagnum peat.*** This form is derived from *Sphagnum* moss species, and is generally less than a thousand years old. It usually forms in acidic and nutrient-poor, cold environments. It is a light-coloured, very low density (0.1 – 0.5 kg/L) material that is degradable.
- ***Reed sedge peat.*** This is derived from sedges (reedy swamp plants), and usually takes several thousand years to form. It develops in acid – neutral, mineral enriched waters in temperate climates. Much denser (0.6 – 1.1 kg/L) than sphagnum peat, reed sedge peat is also much less degradable.

The colour of peat is due to its content of **humic acids**, with reed sedge peats (also known as black peats) containing much more humic acids than sphagnum peats.

BiogreenTM peat is a reed-sedge peat harvested from a resource near Swan Marsh in south-western Victoria. It generally grades from fibrous (younger, less humic acid, less dense) to humic (older, humic acids up to 10% by weight, representing >60% of organic content, denser, clay-like), and is sold in various blends depending on the application.

Because of its high humic acid content, **Biogreen**TM peat can hold nearly twice its weight in water, and bind high levels of nutrients, minerals and fertilisers. These attributes, together with the ability of humic acids to stimulate root growth, make **Biogreen**TM peat and peat-based substrates ideal for producing vigorous, healthy plants while minimising water and fertiliser consumption.

BiogreenTM peat is **certified 100% organic** by both the National Association of Sustainable Agriculture (Australia) (NASAA) and the Biological Farmers Association.