



## **Green Tip: Avoid Planter Box Mix & Peat Moss**

Most of us have purchased planter box mix for our houseplants, but did you know that this seemingly innocuous product is actually harmful to the environment? This is because peat, a carbon-rich substance, is a major component of planter box mix.

Peat is so carbon-rich that 3% of the earth's surface stores 30% of carbon on land. Peat moss is strip-mined from the boreal forests in northern Canada. The process involves scooping up vegetation inside a drained wetland, but the moment peat dries out, it starts to release carbon that has been stored for tens of thousands of years. Clearly, maintaining peat bogs is vital.

At this time, the provinces/territories do not have laws to assess and regulate the carbon pollution from peat moss mining. Another way to help is to write a letter to Jonathon Wilkinson, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, asking him to order the Impact Assessment Agency to review the climate impacts of new peat mines.

Your houseplants will still thrive without peat moss, and our planet will thank you for taking this small step.