

# 2014 Statistics about Peatland Areas Managed for Horticultural Peat Harvesting in Canada



Last update: March 21, 2016

## DATA COMPILED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- Data from each peat company members of the CSPMA
- Data compiled by Geneviève Potvin for QB peat producers (members of APTHQ)
- Data compiled by Jacques Thibault for NB peat producers (members of NBPPA)
- Areas estimated from Google Earth

## DEFINITIONS OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- **Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations:** Total areas that has been in production since the beginning of peat harvesting operations.
- **In Production:** Areas in production in 2014.
- **Post-production management options:** Areas closed for production
  - **Restoration:** includes the following
    - **Restoration (MLTT):** Restored by the Moss-Layer-Transfer Technique, with plant reintroduction and rewetting (mostly bog)
    - **Rewetting:** Drainage ditches blocked, water table raised but no open water area (see marsh creation), no plant reintroduction (can be bog or fen)
    - **Natural regeneration:** Unrestored but naturally well-regenerated, without any intervention (mostly old block-cut sites). If the status of regeneration is unknown, select the last category.
  - **Reclamation:** includes the following
    - **Tree plantation:** Planting of trees, such as larch, spruce, etc. (for economic or ecological purposes)
    - **Berry plantation:** Plantation of species producing berries, such as blueberry, aronia, cloudberry, etc. (for economic or ecological purposes)
    - **Cranberry production:** Area managed for cranberry production (economic purpose)
    - **Marsh creation:** Rewetted area where the level of the water table is high enough to create an open water body (on more than 50% of the sector), such as pool, pond, marsh, small lake.
  - **No intervention:** Unrestored and not well-regenerated (without peat accumulating plant species), or regeneration status unknown (= what we used to call “abandoned peatland”).

## SOME RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL

- 28 150 hectares (ha) of peatland has been opened in Canada since the beginning of the industrial peat harvesting operations. (CSPMA members only = 24 250 ha)
- At least 16 500 ha are under production. (CSPMA members only = 14 850 ha)
- Total area no longer in production (post-production): 10 760 ha (CSPMA members only = 8 470 ha)
- 6 150 ha of peatland have been restored or reclaimed (all categories except the “No intervention”) (CSPMA members only = 4 415 ha)
- 5 391 ha of peatland have been restored (by the MLTT, rewetting or natural regeneration) (CSPMA members only = 3 670 ha)
- 935 ha of peatland has been restored by the Moss-Layer-Transfer-Technique. (CSPMA members only = 900 ha)
- 4 600 ha of peatland without intervention (“abandoned”): still work to do! (CSPMA members only = 4 040 ha)

## UNCERTAINTY:

- missing data in the central provinces;
- data to clarify in Quebec and Ontario;
- ensure to include all orphan sites (if we are not considering CSPMA members only)

## NEXT STEPS

### Communication:

- **Figures** will be edited by graphic designer and posted on our web site
- **Compiled table** available for the industry. It may also be shared with some partners / stakeholders upon request (e.g. EC for the NIR)

Update frequency: annually, each January/February

### Suggestion of improvement for next survey (2015 data):

- Deal with uncertainties identified above;
- Add Infrastructure (but not road);
- Remove Unclear/Temporary status (what is not closed yet should be under Production);
- Add Alaska state ;
- Difficulty to consider “success”: it will be important to have a reflection about that.

Right now, the statistics do not consider the success.

- o Possibility to develop a “CSPMA certified restored site”?
- o The work by EC might help in the future
- o Note that for block-cut site, we cannot assume that 100% is well-regenerated. At least 50% should go in the “non-regenerated” category to take the baulks into account.

## GENERAL NOTE ABOUT THE RESTORATION / RECLAMATION / REHABILITATION CONCEPTS

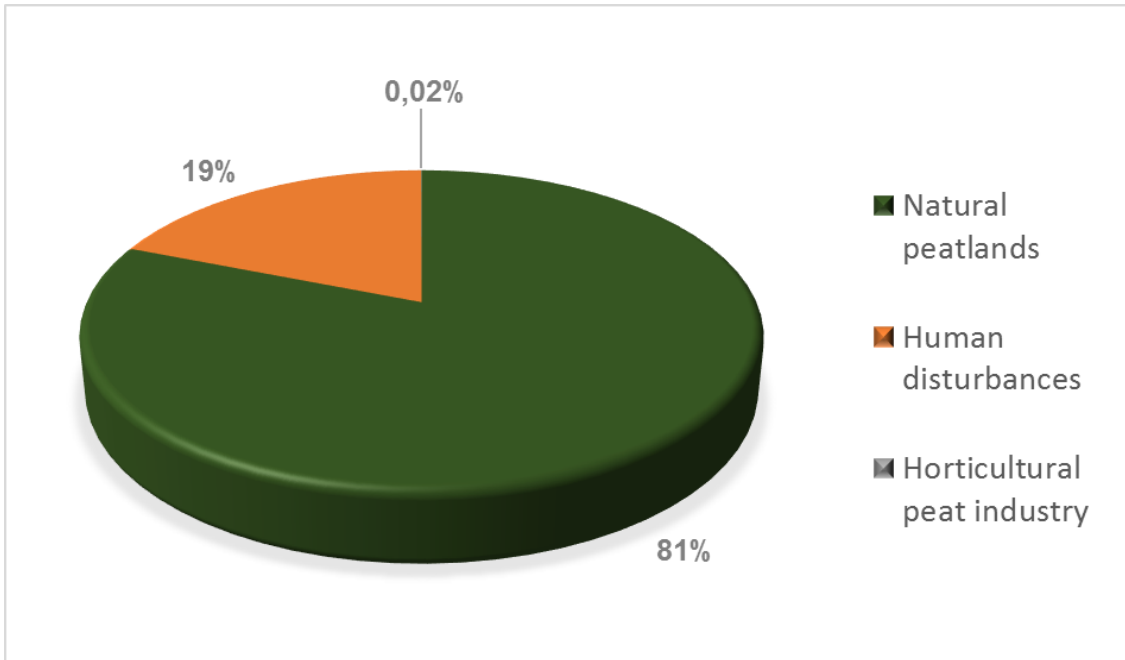
- **Restoration:** (FR: restauration)
  - Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. (SER International Primer on Ecological Restoration)
  - Key to restoration is making clear the goal. Goal of the peat industry when doing restoration: to return a functional ecosystem that can accumulate peat again
  
- **Rehabilitation:** (FR: réaménagement, réhabilitation)
  - The reparation of ecosystem processes, productivity and services of the former peatland, but does not imply the re-establishment of the pre-existing biotic integrity in terms of species composition and community structure.
  - Rehabilitation shares with restoration a fundamental focus on historical or pre-existing ecosystems as models or references, but the two activities differ in their goals and strategies.
  
- **Reclamation:** (FR: réhabilitation, réaménagement, remise en état, mise en valeur)
  - The term reclamation has an even broader application than rehabilitation. The main objectives of reclamation include the stabilization of the terrain, assurance of public safety, aesthetic improvement, and usually a return of the land to what, within the regional context, is considered to be a useful purpose. Revegetation, which is normally a component of land reclamation, may entail the establishment of only one or few species.
  - Reclamation projects that are more ecologically based can qualify as rehabilitation or even restoration.

## PROPOSED FIGURES

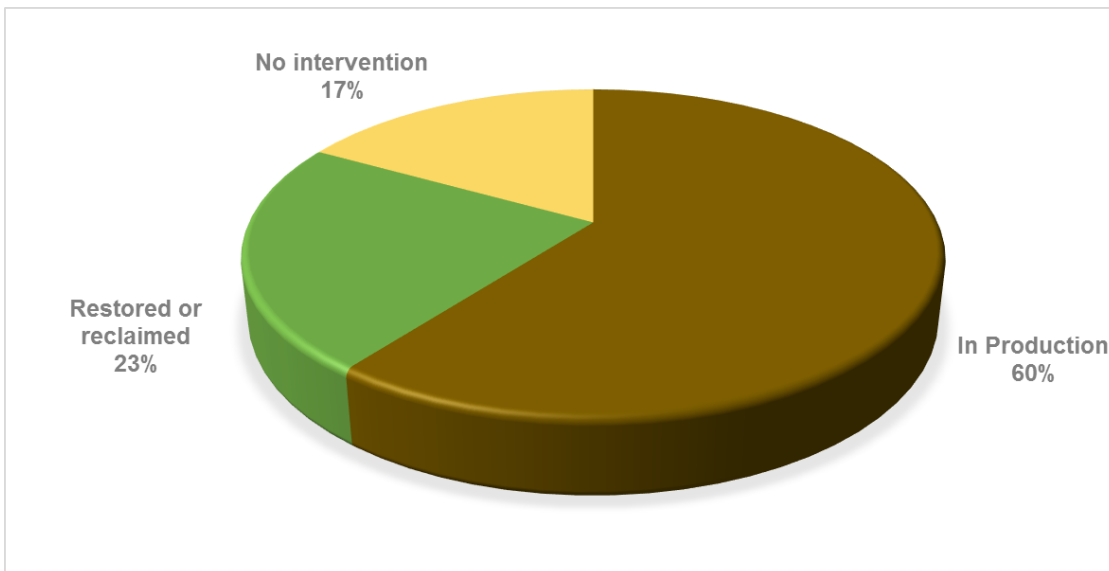
Note: a graphic designer will do final figures with better visual

### CANADIAN PEATLANDS

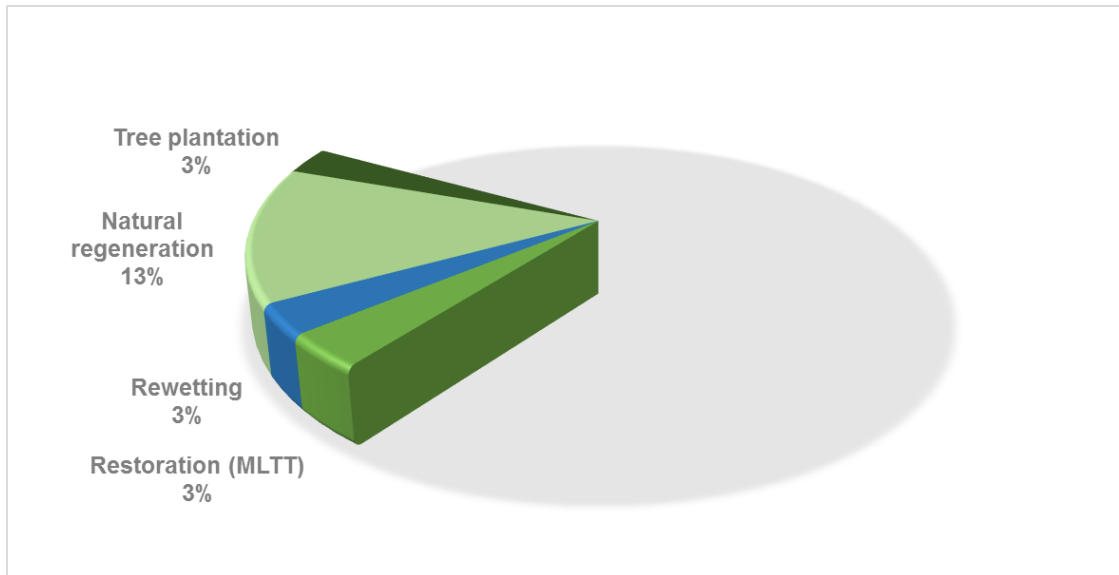
Canada' overall peatland is estimated at 113.6 million hectares (ha). Of this, 81% is in natural state. Only 0.02% has been or is currently used for horticultural peat production (28 150 ha).



### THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA (2014)



## POST-PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT IN 2014:



**COMPILED TABLE – All Canadian Peatlands**

**2014 Peatland Areas - ALL**

Company:

Unit

Management options (see definition )			Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations	In Production	Unclear/Temporary status	Post Production**									
						Restoration (MLTT)	Rewetting	Sphagnum farming	Tree plantation	Berry plantation	Cranberry production	Marsh creation	Natural regeneration	No intervention	Other (please specify)
Canadian Provinces	PEI	PEI	414	414	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Brunswick	NB	8 219	5 828	427	129	11	0	279	0	0	5	348	1 188	3
	Nova Scotia	NS	355	238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	0
	Québec	QC	8 769	5 652	456	553	233	0	369	27	0	17	638	765	10
	Ontario	ON	999	821	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	127	0
	Manitoba	MB	3 309	1 510	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	1 513	0
	Saskatchewan	SK	686	427	0	96	0	0	64	0	0	0	1	98	0
	Alberta	AB	3 736	1 428	0	74	580	0	4	0	0	0	872	778	0
	British Columbia	BC	1 500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 500	0	0
	New Foundland/Labrador	NF/L	158	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	8	0
<b>TOTAL CANADA</b>			<b>28 146</b>	<b>16 439</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3 633</b>	<b>4 594</b>	<b>13</b>
US States	Minnesota		150	123	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Massachusetts		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wisconsin		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Others (please identify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL USA</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**COMPILED TABLE – CSPMA members only**

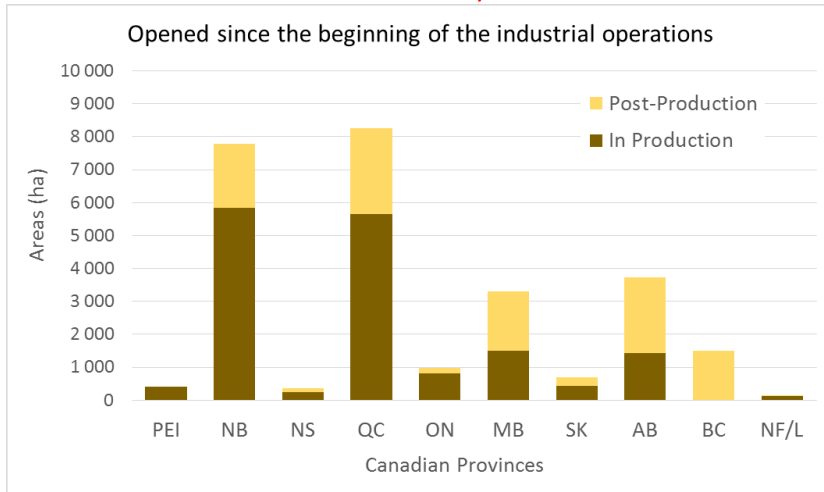
**2014 Peatland Areas - CSPMA members only**

Unit      Hectares

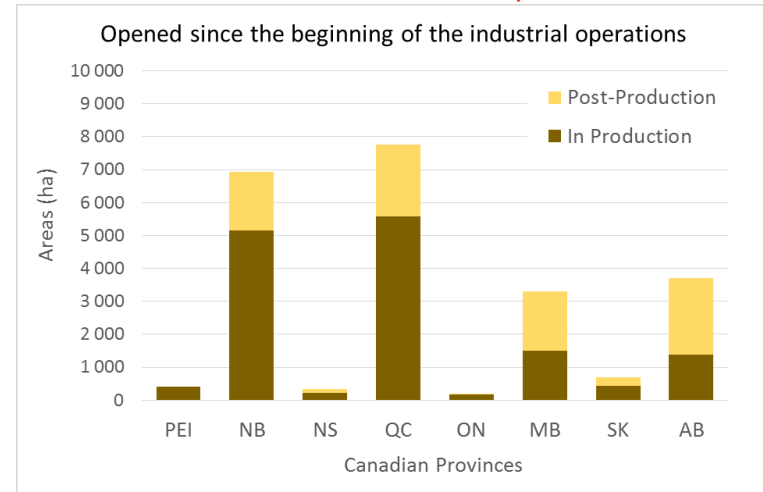
Management options (see definition)		Unit	Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations	In Production	Unclear/Temporary status	Post Production**									
						Restoration (MLTT)	Rewetting	Sphagnum farming	Tree plantation	Berry plantation	Cranberry production	Marsh creation	Natural regeneration	No intervention	Other (please specify)
Canadian Provinces	PEI	PEI	414	414	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Brunswick	NB	7 367	5 160	427	104	11	0	279	0	0	1	312	1 069	3
	Nova Scotia	NS	327	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	0
	Québec	QC	8 274	5 570	456	540	201	0	362	27	0	9	591	462	6
	Ontario	ON	180	174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
	Manitoba	MB	3 309	1 510	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	1 513	0
	Saskatchewan	SK	686	427	0	96	0	0	64	0	0	0	1	98	0
	Alberta	AB	3 698	1 391	0	74	580	0	4	0	0	0	872	778	0
	British Columbia	BC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Foundland/Labrador	NF/L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL CANADA</b>			<b>24 256</b>	<b>14 856</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1 979</b>	<b>4 043</b>	<b>9</b>
US States	Minnesota		150	123	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Massachusetts		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wisconsin		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Others (please identify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL USA</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

## OTHER FIGURES

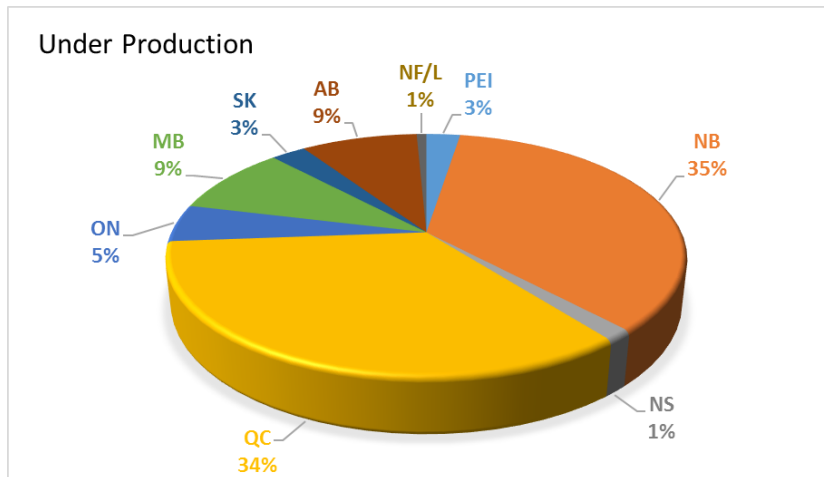
All industry



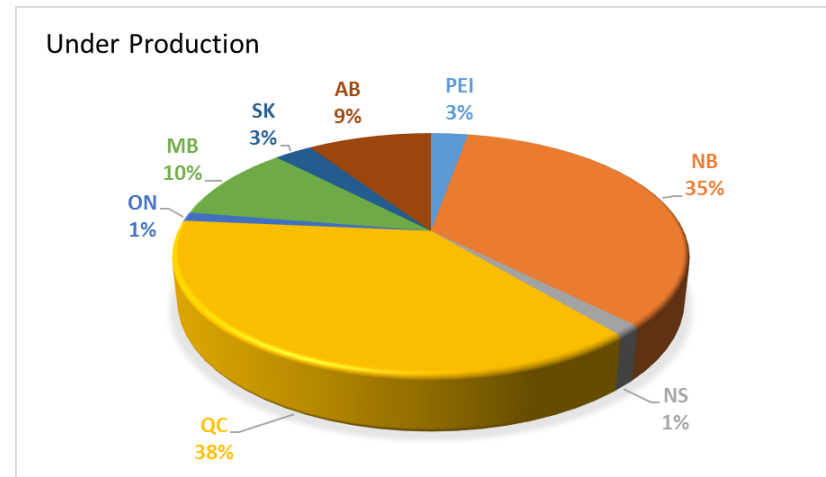
CSPMA members only



Under Production

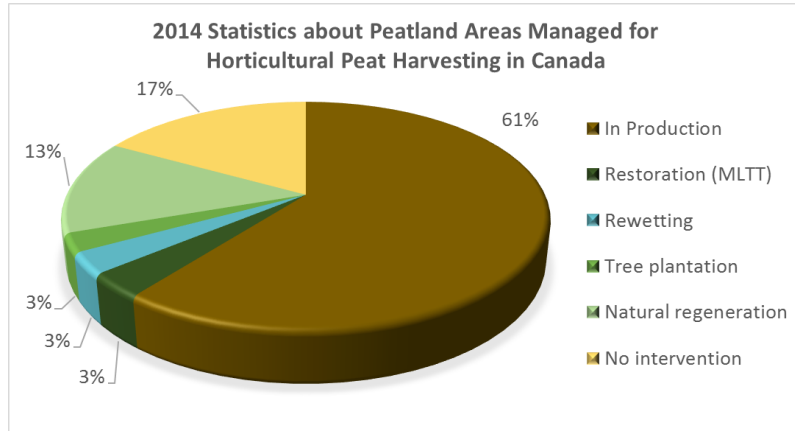


Under Production

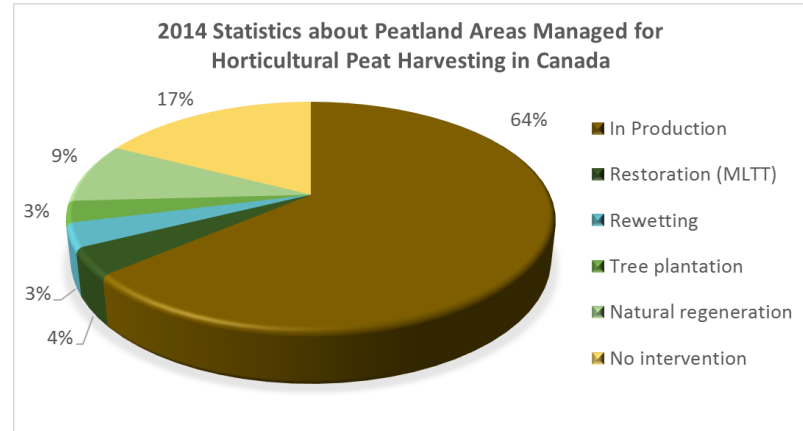




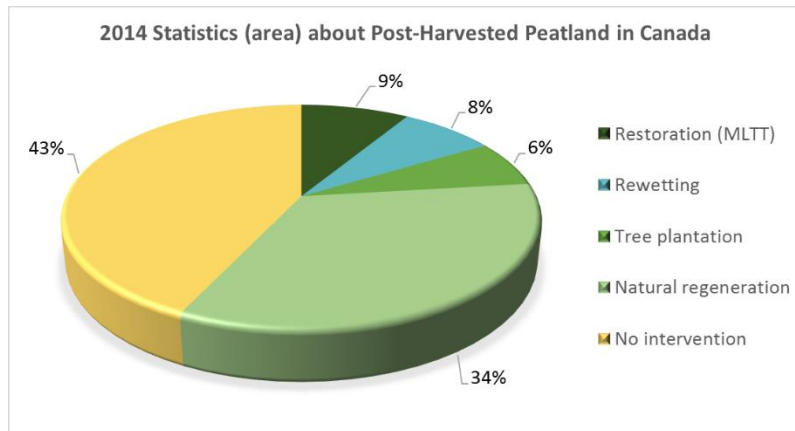
All industry



CSPMA members only



Without the production portion



Without the production portion

