

The Cons of Peat vs Coir vs FibreGro®

A comparison of fibres

⊗ PEAT	⊗ COIR	⊗ FibreGro®
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat is not a renewable resource Extracting from centuries-old peat bogs is now recognised as unsustainable and many countries are restricting its extraction • Mainly sourced from overseas High cost and large carbon footprint to import into New Zealand • Many factors can affect importation Shipping and geopolitics can affect supply • Harvesting limitations Wet summers and cold springs and autumns restrict availability • High cost Freight, extraction and exchange rates influence price • Low air-filled porosity Reduced pore space which can result in poorer drainage can result in poor root development and increase risk of root disease and reduced root and shoot growth • Hydrophobic Peat is highly hydrophobic making the media difficult to rewet if it dries out. • Not sterile Some risk of weed seed or pathogens at source • Low particle size distribution High % of fines in milled and screened peat reduce the integrity of the substrate. Fines tend to migrate to the bottom of pots which can cause poor drainage, waterlogging and slumping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly sourced from overseas High cost and large carbon footprint to import into New Zealand • Variability of supply Restricted number of countries where good reliable sources can be found • Many factors can affect importation Shipping and geopolitics can affect supply • High cost Freight, processing and exchange rates influence price • High moisture content (when rehydrated) Can result in making water management a challenge. Drying and wetting stages can be volatile due to higher air filled porosity and water holding capacity. • Not sterile Limited risk of weed seed or pathogens at source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slumpage Because of its physical nature FibreGro® may slump over time • Lightweight While mostly an advantage, could be a risk in high wind areas in terms of reduced anchorage of plants