

# Milled Peat Production (2)



*Ridging the peat*

## RIDGING:

When the layer of peat on the surface of the bog has reached the target water content it is collected into ridges in the middle of each field. This is done with a ridger, a machine consisting of a series of blades in the shape of a V that span the full width of the field. The blades are towed by a tractor and push the peat to the centre of the field.

## HARVESTING:

In the Peco system the ridge on the fifth field from the stockpile is picked up by a harvesting machine, passed along a conveyor and dropped on top of the ridge on the fourth field from the stockpile. This process is repeated “leap frog” fashion until all the peat is harvested onto the stockpile which is located in the middle field of the 11 field unit.

In the Haku system each ridge is picked up by the same type of harvester and loaded into a trailer on an adjoining field. This trailer of peat is then taken to the central stockpile while another trailer moves in under the harvester. The operations of milling, harrowing, ridging and harvesting are repeated for each crop and are collectively described as a cycle.

Generally at least 12mm of evaporation is required to dry a crop to the target moisture content. This normally takes a period of 3 to 4 days. In an average year 12 crops or production cycles are achieved. However, due to the undependable nature of our summer weather, the number of crops produced varies considerably from year to year.



*Harvesting the peat*