



Sustainable Growing Media for Agriculture

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Message from the Guest Editors

Growing media include all materials that can be used to grow plants in a variety of production systems such as greenhouse cultivation; production of ornamental plants on containers; urban agriculture; or green roofs. Peat has been traditionally used as substrate material due to the excellent combination of peat properties such as low pH, high cation exchange capacity, and adequate water holding capacity. Peat is extracted from peatlands that approximately cover an area of 400 million ha and store more than 400 billion metric tons of carbon, being a sink for carbon dioxide. Nevertheless, peatlands can be degraded by peat extraction, drainage, or fire occurrence, with important environmental consequences. This fact, combined with the high cost of some growing media components, is increasing the search for sustainable growing substrates with similar physicochemical properties to traditional growing media, such as hydrochar obtained by hydrothermal carbonisation. The objective of this Special Issue is to collect innovative papers about the use of new growing media made from ecofriendly raw materials within the scope of the circular economy.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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