

## **West Siberian Plain - the world largest basin of peat accumulation**

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About 40% of the world (70% of Russian) peat resources (106 billion tons) are concentrated within the West Siberian Plain (about 3 million km<sup>2</sup>). Bog formation is in process there nowadays. Peat content, constituting 50-70% and 2-5% on the north and south respectively, varies according to natural-climatic conditions (tundra, forest-tundra, taiga, forest-steppe and steppe; lowland, plain, high plain).

Peat deposit (~ 6 000) regionalization is based on both peculiarities of bog formation, peat and peat bog types, and dependence of these characteristics on structure-geomorphological differentiation of the area considered. This differentiation is directly associated with irregularity of Oligocene-Quaternary tectonic movements resulted in difference in hypsometry, morphology and genesis of primary topographic forms. 70 types of peat bog structures and 85 peat types have been revealed.

Peat raw materials of the West Siberian Province differs in a wide variety of physico-chemical properties. These are rich in mineral formations. Carbonate (alm) and bog phosphates, frequently forming accumulations significant in reserves, are prominent in composition of the latter.

The utilization of a wide spectrum of peat and accompanying mineral formations is shown.