



Heidi Greb. Jacket in dark brown wool with peat fibre.



Heidi Greb. Dress and gloves, wool with peat fibre.

Please note that the peat used in this form of felting is derived from cotton grass. Peat is regarded as an endangered resource in most countries, the mining of which damages the ecological balance of the environment, ruining wetlands, animal and bird populations.

Computer Stress?

Make a Felted Peat Slab!

Inge Evers

It is too long ago that I made my first peat-felt samples. I cannot remember where I got the material and used in paper making. But yesterday I had my lucky day. I went to the Institute Scorlewald, an hours drive from here and met an old student of mine working with peat. Scorlewald is beautifully situated in a park-like area with workshops and houses spread-over. About 130 mentally handicapped people and most of the 130 co-workers live and work here together. There is a huge workshop to make Choroi musical instruments, violins and cellos as well. They run a bakery which supplies the institute and many shops in the area. The farm and the garden fulfil most of their own needs. And they run a Peat-Workshop.

I found out that in 1991 there had been a European 'peat - conference' in this place. After that 'Turfpost' (means peat by mail) was founded. Turfpost sells peat fibre based end products made in different European institutions: apart from Scorlewald, Alma Torvtextil in Sweden and Institute La Branche in Switzerland. From Scorlewald they sell different products. They buy the fibres in Sweden, preparation is done in Breidablick in Middenbeemster. Peat is mixed during the carding process with wool or silk. At Scorlewald the peat workshop has existed for about 10 years. They spin the yarns and knit caps, sweaters and vests. Besides knitting products like car seat covers, other cushions are woven and sewn. At the moment I am wearing one of their most popular products: a woven computer-slab, which they sell all over the world. Peat fibre is highly protective against computer and other radiation and electronic fields. Other good qualities are that it revitalises. It is comfortable and healthy in wearing, because it regulates moisture and produces active warmth which stimulates blood-circulation. So there are many good reasons to make peat felts.

Since the 15th century peat was dug in Holland. Not much of it is left. There is at least one place where they still dig the peat, mostly to be used in gardening. The fibre used in textiles comes from Sweden, where there still is an area with peat moss. Peat fibre is dug from half a metre to 3 metres deep. It can be thousands of years old and contain the power of our then vital earth. Peat is bought by big companies for industrial uses. During the processing the fibre is sieved out. That fibre is 'gold' but they call it 'noil'. Another intensive process is necessary to free the peat fibre useful for spinning yarns, just 5% of all can be used. During my workshop in the International Felt Symposium in Finland we found out more about peat felt.

Johannes Kloss has written an article published in a little book on Alma Torvtextil, his small private business in the south of Sweden. He developed the peat fibre according to the method by Dr. Rudolf Steiner.

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