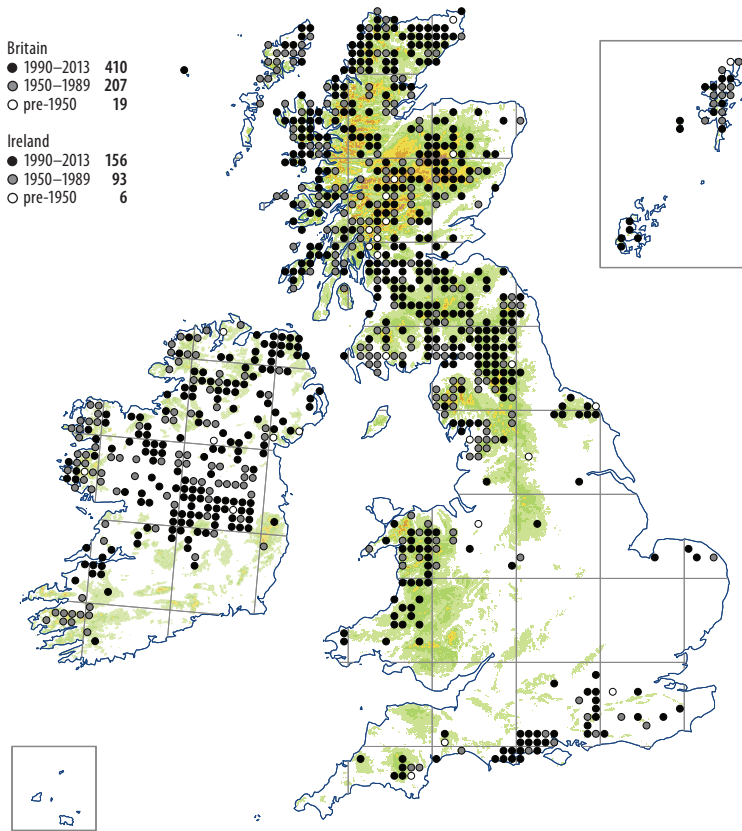


Sphagnum magellanicum



A characteristic species of well-illuminated bogs on deep uneroded peat, where it occupies a position intermediate between the tops of hummocks and the lower part of 'lawns'. It reaches its greatest abundance on raised bogs and is almost invariably present where these are well developed. It also occurs on blanket bogs and valley bogs where the peat is deep and wet. Associates such as *Erica tetralix*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *E. vaginatum*, *Trichophorum cespitosum* and *Sphagnum papillosum* are typical. Altitudinal range: 0–1030 m.

Sphagnum magellanicum is a major peat-former. On Carbury Bog, Ireland, it replaced *S. papillosum* after 1900 (van Geel & Middeldorp, 1988). On Butterburn Flow, England, it replaced *S. austinii* after 1300 (McClymont *et al.*, 2008). The authors of these studies suggest that it is more tolerant of disturbance

and increased nitrogen inputs than either *S. austinii* or *S. papillosum*.

Diocious; capsules are rather rare but are regularly produced on some bogs where the species is abundant.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane, with a boreal-montane distribution in Europe but much more widespread in N America, from Arctic Alaska south to Texas and Florida. Tropical and temperate S America. Southern Australia, New Zealand.

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