



The EU Ecolabel for Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch

"The official European label for Greener Products"

Choose the EU Ecolabel for your Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch products to show your commitment to a better environment.

Once it's on your products, the EU Ecolabel guarantees

- recycling of materials
- the use of renewable and recycled materials

In particular to your Soil Improver and Mulch products, the EU Ecolabel furthermore guarantees

- reduced soil and water pollution, by limiting heavy metals concentrations

The EU Ecolabel can be awarded to any Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch product falling within the scope of Commission Decision (EU) 2015/2099 on growing media, soil improvers and mulch.

Meet your customers' demand

Today, consumers are more aware that protecting the environment is fundamental. Four out of five European consumers would like to buy more environmentally friendly products, provided that they are properly certified by an independent organisation.

With your products bearing the EU Ecolabel, you offer consumers a reliable logo to easily identify high performing environmentally friendly products that are available on the European market.

Give your Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch products a credible sign of environmental excellence... apply for the EU Ecolabel!

◆ For a quick test, use the check list on the back!

For more information...

... on the scheme, its feature, the actors involved, the application process:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>

... on the detailed criteria for "Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch" product group:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>



...to market your EU Ecolabel products use our free E-catalogue: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecat>

Checklist (for a first assessment only) in terms of requirements

This is a non-exhaustive list of EU Ecolabel criteria for Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch products. Please see the [Commission Decision \(2015/2099/EU\)](#) for full details. Criterion applicable to [G]: Growing media, [S]: Soil improvers, [M]: Mulch.

Life cycle step	Criterion	Expectations
Manufacturing	[GSM]: Constituents	The constituents admitted shall be organic and/or mineral constituents.
Manufacturing	[GSM]: Organic constituents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final product shall not contain peat. Materials that are allowed and not allowed as organic constituents of a final product are listed in the full criteria document. Materials derived from recycling or recovery of sludges are only allowed if the sludges are identified as one of the types of waste, according to the European List of Wastes, presented in Table 2 of the full criteria document and if they are single-source separated.
Manufacturing	[Mineral G]: Energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions	The manufacture of expanded minerals and mineral wool shall fulfil the specified threshold for energy consumption per product (≤11 GJ/t product) and for CO ₂ emissions per product (≤0,8 t CO ₂ /t product), following the calculation methods specified in the full criteria document .
Manufacturing	[GSM]: Sources of mineral extraction	<p>Extracted minerals can be used as constituents of the final product provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If extracted from Natura 2000 network areas within the EU, extraction activities have been assessed and authorised in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC and taking into account the EC Guidance document on non-provisional mineral extraction and Natura 2000. If extracted from protected areas outside the EU, designated as such under the national legislation of the sourcing/exporting countries, the extraction activities must have been assessed and authorised in accordance with provisions that provide equivalent assurances.
Manufacturing	[G]: Recycled/recovered and organic materials in growing media	Growing media products shall contain a minimum 30% of organic constituents or contain mineral constituents manufactured from a process using at least 30% of recycled/recovered materials as specified in the full criteria document .
Manufacturing	[GSM]: Restriction of hazardous substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of heavy metal elements in the final product and organic constituents of growing media shall not exceed the limit values specified in Table 3 and Table 4 of the full criteria document. The content of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH₁₆) in the final product (with the exception of mineral growing media) shall not exceed the limit value of 6 mg/kg DW. Hazardous substances and mixtures: The final product shall not be classified and labelled as being acutely toxic, a specific target organ toxicant, a respiratory or skin sensitiser, or carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction, or hazardous to the environment. The product shall not contain substances or mixtures classified according to the hazard statements specified in Table 7 of the full criteria document. The final product shall not contain any intentionally added substances of very high concern and included in the list provided for in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, present in the final product in concentrations > 0,010% in terms of wet weight. The content of primary pathogens <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Salmonella spp.</i> in the final product (with the exception of mineral growing media) shall not exceed the limit levels set in Table 8 of the full criteria document.
Manufacturing	[G]: Growing media features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electrical conductivity of the final product shall be below 100 mS/m. The pH of the final product shall be in the range 4-7. The sodium content in water extracts of the final product shall not exceed 150 mg/l of fresh product. The chloride content in water extracts of the final product shall not exceed 500 mg/l of fresh product.
Manufacturing	[GSM]: Physical contaminants	The content of glass, metal and plastic with mesh size of > 2 mm in the final product (with the exception of mineral growing media) shall not exceed 0,5%, measured in terms of dry weight.
Manufacturing	[SM]: Organic matter and dry matter	The organic matter as loss on ignition of the final product shall be at least 15% dry weight. The dry matter content of the final product shall be at least 25% of the fresh weight.
Manufacturing /Use	[GS]: Viable weed seeds and plant propagules	Final products (with the exception of mineral growing media) shall not contain more than two units of viable weed seeds and plant propagules per litre.
Use	[GS]: Plant response	Final products shall not adversely affect plant emergence or subsequent growth.
Use	[GSM]: Stability	Products for non-professional and professional use shall meet one of the specified stability requirements on the maximum Respirometric index or minimum Rottegrad presented in the relevant table of the full criteria document (Table 10 and Table 11).
Use	[GSM]: Provision of information	The information specified in the full criteria document shall be provided with the product either on the packaging or in accompanying fact sheets.
Use	[GSM]: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel	<p>The optional label with text box shall contain the following text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — promotes the recycling of materials — promotes the use of renewable and recycled materials <p>For soil improvers and mulch, the additional information shall be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — reduces soil and water pollution, by limiting heavy metals concentrations
Use/End of life	[G]: Mineral growing media use and after use	The mineral growing media shall only be offered for use for professional horticultural applications. The applicant shall offer customers a structured collection and recycling service, which may use third party service providers. The collection and recycling service shall cover a minimum of 70% v/v of the applicant's sales of the product across the European Union.

