








The European Eco-label for Soil improvers and for Growing media

"The official EU mark for Greener Products"

If you want to show your commitment to a better environment:

Choose the Flower for your Soil improvers and for your Growing media

Once it's on your products, the Flower guarantees:

-  Strict restriction of heavy metal content
-  Limitation of various nuisances (weed seeds etc.)
-  Re-use of organic waste, no peat used
-  Pathogens - strictly controlled content
-  User instructions provided with the product

The Flower for Soil improvers can be awarded to materials to be added to the soil in situ primarily to maintain or improve its physical properties, and which may improve its chemical and / or biological soil properties or activity.

The Flower for Growing media can be awarded to material, other than soils in situ, in which plants are grown.

Meet your customers' needs

Consumers are today more sensitive to the protection of the environment. Four out of five European consumers would like to buy more environmentally friendly products, provided they are properly certified by an independent organisation.

With the Flower on your products you offer them a reliable guide, so they can easily identify the good environmental performers on the market.

Give your soil improvers and/or your growing media a credible sign of Environmental Excellence...

Apply for the Flower!

For a quick test use the check list on the back

They said it!


"The European Eco-label is an official certification. It is recognised as providing a guarantee for our customers of the quality of environmentally-friendly products such as Somergie's vegetal compost."


Mr Fénart, Managing Director, Somergie

"Traditionally, potting soil and soil improvers' manufacturers use great quantities of peat but it is harmful to the environment. In 1999, Norland SA was the first company in Belgium to be awarded the European Eco-label for a peat-free soil improver. Since then our production has increased regularly thanks to the Flower. What is good for the environment ensures our growth. This is exactly what sustainable development is about."


Luc Minne, Manager, Norland S.A

For more information...

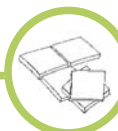
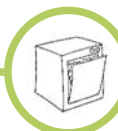
... on the scheme, its features, the actors involved, the application process... 
<http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>

... on the "soil improvers" product group: detailed criteria, date of revision... 
<http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>

Choose "product groups" on the menu on the left

... on the "growing media" product group: detailed criteria, date of revision... 
<http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>

Choose "product groups" on the menu on the left





Life Cycle Step	Criterion	Expectations
Manufacturing	Reuse of organic matter from waste material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic matter content is derived from the processing and / or re-use of waste. Products shall not contain peat. Products shall not contain sewage sludge. Non-sewage sludges are allowed if they meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sludges are identified as one of the following wastes according to the European list of wastes as defined by Commission Decision 2001/118/EC amending Decision 2000/532/EC: 02 03 05, 02 04 03, 02 05 02, 02 06 03, 02 07 05. Sludges are single source separated, meaning that there is no mixing with effluents or sludges outside the specific production process. Maximum concentrations of heavy metals in the waste before treatment (in mg/kg dry weight) meet the requirements specified in this fact sheet. Sludges shall meet all other European Eco-label criteria specified in this fact sheet, in which case they are considered to be sufficiently stabilized and sanitized.
Manufacturing	Extraction of minerals	<p>Minerals shall not be extracted from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notified sites of Community importance pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Natura 2000 network areas, composed of the special protection areas pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, and those areas under Directive 92/43/EEC together, or equivalent areas located outside the EC that fall under the corresponding provisions of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
Manufacturing	Additional specific criteria for growing media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical conductivity $\leq 1,5$ dS/m Applicable to mineral growing media only: <p>For all substantial professional markets, the user shall be fully informed about available options for the removal and processing of growing media after use.</p>
Use	Additional specific criteria for soil improvers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content of glass, metal and plastic $\leq 0,5\%$ of dry weight Total N $\leq 3\%$ of weight; inorganic N $\leq 20\%$ of total N Products shall be supplied in a solid form. Products shall contain: dry matter $\geq 25\%$ by weight organic matter $\geq 20\%$ by dry weight.
Use	Reduction of soil degradation and water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limitation of hazardous substances (in mg/kg in terms of dry weight): $Zn \leq 300$ $Cu \leq 100$ $Ni \leq 50$ $Cd \leq 1$ $Pb \leq 100$ $Hg \leq 1$ $Cr \leq 100$ $Mo \leq 2$ $Se \leq 1,5$ $As \leq 10$ $F \leq 200$
Use	Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum levels of primary pathogens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmonella: absent in 25 g E. Coli < 1000 MPN/g (MPN: most probable number) for those products whose organic content is exclusively derived from green, garden or park waste. Helminth Ova: absent in 1,5 g for those products whose organic content is not exclusively derived from green, garden or park waste.
Use	Consumer information for environmental use	<p>The following information shall be provided with the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended conditions of storage and the recommended 'use by' date. Guidelines for safe handling and use. Main input materials. Purpose, limitations of use, suitability for particular plant groups, recommended methods of use, statement about the stability of organic matter. In hobby applications: recommended rate of application (in kg or L per unit surface area (m²) per year). pH and Carbon to Nitrogen (C/N) ratio.
Use	Performance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product shall not adversely affect plant emergence or subsequent growth. The content of weed seeds and the vegetative reproductive parts of aggressive weeds shall not exceed 2 units per liter.

Your Competent Body will inform you which assessment and verification documents are required (e.g. declarations of compliance, MSDS of ingredients), which test results must be provided and how the testing should be carried out (external test laboratories).

To market your eco-labelled products use our free Green Store:

<http://www.eco-label.com>

Green Store
The Eco-label
Catalogue