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Completely biodegradable bio-based derived plastic mulch foils with a functional inner layer

Authors:

Krystyna MALINSKA, Przemysław POSTAWA, Tomasz STACHOWIAK, Agnieszka PUDELKO, Danuta DROZDZ, Dorota NOWAK **CZESTOCHOWA UNIVERSITY of TECHNOLOGY**

Faculty of Infrastructure and Environment, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering & Computer Science

ABSTRACT of INVENTION

The subject of the invention is an innovative structure of a biodegradable bio-based mulch foil used in conventional and organic agriculture for growing plants.. This is an alternative for conventional plastic mulches and is applied to suppress weeds, and thus reduce the use of pesticides. The presented invention aims at solving the problem with on-farm waste generated from the use of conventional non biodegradable foils. The most pressing issue with the use of thermoplastic polymers is associated with the elevated costs of recycling. The idea of the presented invention is to use the biodegradable mulch foil on the fields and after vegetation season let it decompose in soil or collect it and compost in on-site. This is possible due to the types and ratios of materials used for foil manufacturing and a unique structure of the foil itself. The foil consists of 3 layers with different functionalities. Outer layer demonstrates a sufficient mechanical resistance and longer degradation time and the inner layer is made with polymer with faster time of degradation. Additionally, the inner layer could be filled with different active substances and/or nutrients to facilitate soil properties and plant growth. All polymer materials, fillers and additives used for manufacturing the presented foils are bio-based and biodegradable. Layer B (inner) is functional layer for transfer different substances duging degradation proces from film to soil. It could be field of:



Layer A (outer) longer time of

degradation

Layer B (inner) functional layer with faster degradation

- bio fertilizer,
- fragrances (eg. eucalyptus, menthol),
- biochar from various sources,
- biobased fillers,
- wastes from plant production,
- filler modifying soil properties.



Defined problems:

- huge costs of recycling mulch foils in agriculture,
- problem of harvesting from fields of thermoplastic films,
- burning thermoplastic films in the fields.



Contact person: Krystyna MALIŃSKA Email: krystyna.malinska@pcz.pl

Poland, 42-201 Częstochowa,

Technology Transfer Center ul. JH. Dąbrowskiego 69, Office no.146

What problem the invention solves:

- limiting the use of non-renewable resources,
- reduction of costs and field works related to foil disposal
- materials used as a filler in the inner functional layer could be safety mixed with soil after vegetation process,
- the invention could be used as a welded bags for dirty waste difficult for utilization.

Purpose and application areas:

- agriculture biodegradable mulch films,
- biodegradable one use gloves, \bullet
- biodegradable animal extrement bags,

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