

Press Release

For Immediate Release: 20 November 2006

PLOCHER PRODUCTS ARRIVE FROM GERMANY AND DEMONSTRATE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN ODOUR PROBLEMS

Swift Nature has shown that Plocher Komposter significantly improves odour problems at Bury Lane Farm, Ramsey where composting 2,000 tons of onions and oranges per month was causing complaints from local residents.

Bury Lane Farm recently started trialling various products in order to reduce odours. They tried Plocher Komposter first, mixing it with water and spraying it on newly arrived onions and oranges. Daniel Bedford, who shreds the material for composting found that he could shred for much of the day, whereas in the past, it has been too uncomfortable to shred for more than an hour at a time.

When it came to turning the windrows, the odour reduced and changed to a sweeter smell. Chemical analysis was undertaken by NRM Laboratories on samples taken from the Plocher-treated windrow and the untreated windrow, and showed that ammonium nitrogen was 64% higher in the Plocher-treated windrow. In addition, total nitrogen rose by 24%, while other nutrient levels also increased: total phosphorous by 67%, total sulphur by 13% and total calcium by 33%. These improvements have a benefit to the compost as a growing media. Also, e-coli levels were 23% lower in the Plocher-treated windrow which indicates that conditions were more aerobic.

On the day samples were taken, a temperature reading was made. The Plocher-treated windrow was 10°C higher than the untreated windrow despite the fact they were turned on the same day. This indicates that there was more aerobic microbial activity in the Plocher-treated windrow. The readings were 68.1°C and 78.1°C. In addition, the mean temperature of both windrows was 61.4°C in the Plocher-treated windrow compared with 55.7°C in the control. When comparing the temperatures, it is clear that the only time that

the temperature fell in the Plocher-treated windrow was during turning, whereas in the untreated windrow, the temperature fell before turning.

In addition, every 200-250 tons of shredded fruit causes around 9,000 gallons of juice which collects in a lagoon. This also becomes anaerobic which generates an odour. Stuart Bedford used some Plocher product for the lagoon and within a week, small bubbles were rising through the juice and wildlife such as water skates had colonised the water.

Charlotte Wilson of Swift Nature said, "It is really exciting to see the benefits of Plocher's Komposter. It has been used in various countries around the world for the last 25 years, and I think it will solve a lot of odour problems here."

When asked about the product in comparison to the various biological products on the market Charlotte states, "Plocher products are fundamentally different to these products. Instead of adding microbes to the compost, Plocher products change the environment of the compost by supplying oxygen and essential minerals and elements to the organic matter, which means that the microbes which are already dormant in the compost begin to thrive and multiply at an optimum rate. It is really just stimulating nature's own processes."

Stuart Bedford said, "Plocher really works. It is simply applied using a sprayer and no repeat applications are necessary. Charlotte keeps telling us there is no need to turn our windrows anymore which could save us a lot of money."

When asked about the improvements in the lagoon, he said, "Our EA Officer was very impressed with the bubbles rising through the liquid."

For further information about Plocher products and to place orders, contact Charlotte Wilson, Swift Nature, PO Box 2222, Buckingham MK18 6WZ, 01280 822 188, www.swiftnature.co.uk

For further information about composting at Bury Lane Farm, Ramsey, contact Stuart Bedford on 07734 846278.

NOTES

Swift Nature is the sole UK importer of Plocher products.

Plocher products are totally natural, cost-effective solutions to imbalances in soils and water. They act as a catalyst, relying on nature and natural life cycles by promoting nature's ability to re-balance itself, by using energy which is readily available in the atmosphere to transfer the properties of minerals and oxygen to the treatment area via wholly natural innate carrier materials such as chalk and molasses.

Created in Germany by Roland Plocher 25 years ago, Plocher products have made a positive contribution to improved health and energy efficiency in soils and water around the world. Plocher products are EU Certified for Organic Agriculture 2092/91 EWG. They are not described as organic or biological, but as bio-dynamic because they create a beneficial environment in which aerobic microbial activity thrives.

Plocher Komposter is suitable for use on manure, green waste and sewage sludge. It stimulates aerobic decomposition within the organic matter by creating an environment in which aerobic microorganisms thrive and actively increase humus levels. As a result, noxious odours reduce, nutrient levels increase and hygiene improves. It is applied at a rate of 40g per cubic metre of material, and simply added to water and sprayed through the organic material at the earliest possible stage, *once* only. Thereafter, turning or pushing air through the material is not required because Plocher Komposter will supply the oxygen and essential nutrients to stimulate nature's composting processes optimally.

Plocher Komposter is sold in 10kg tubs. One 10kg tub will treat 250 cubic metres of organic matter and costs £140 + VAT.