



## LIFE + Environment Policy and Governance

Project Number: LIFE10 ENV/GR/594

Duration: 01/09/11 – 31/08/15



**Project: Best practices for Agricultural Wastes treatment and reuse in the Mediterranean countries.**

[www.wastereuse.eu](http://www.wastereuse.eu)

Action 4 – Development of alternative agricultural practices – Lab experiments (Italy)

*Deliverable “Guide for open field and greenhouse cultivation of the tested crops (Italy)”*

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Report due: 31/03/2013

Report submitted on: 31/03/2013

## Executive summary

In the line of Action 4, pot trials were carried out in order to assess the suitability of two kinds of composts for the cultivation of different plant species. As indicator cress (*Lepidium sativum*) was chosen. Such composts were selected through chemical analysis (see Deliverable: “Characterization of wastes treated by different technologies regarding their suitability for agricultural use and especially for vegetable and ornamentals cultivation under Italian climatic conditions”) and specific tests to identify any hazardous compounds with regards to Italian relevant legislation and, consequently, their suitability for plant cultivation. The composts belong to two categories that are codified by the Italian legislation (D.lgs. 29 aprile 2006 n 217 and annex update DM 22 gennaio 2009) as “Ammendante compostato misto” (English non official translation “Mixed composted soil improver”) and “Ammendante compostato verde” (English non official translation “Plant composted soil improver”). **Both composts were provided by Centro Sperimentale di Compostaggio - Ente Parco Nazionale Del Cilento E Vallo Di Diano, Laurino (Salerno), coordinating beneficiary of the LIFE project “Tirsav plus” ([www.tirsavplus.eu](http://www.tirsavplus.eu))**. The outcomes of the pot trials were used as a basis for the set up of field trials foreseen in the subsequent phases of Wastereuse project in terms of kind and doses of producing factors for the proper management of selected vegetables and ornamental species on a large scale.

According to the results obtained and a dedicated bibliographic search, indications are given in the present report regarding the possibility to use composts as growing media when mixed at different rates together with other kind of materials. Use of composts is evaluated according to main chemical properties and agronomic performance when used for the cultivation of different kind of crops (both in open field and greenhouse). Results show that blends of natural soil and good quality compost mixed in proper ratios (20 % to 40% of compost v/v) together with zeolite can be used in the place of traditional peat based growing media with specific regards to pot cultivations.