

~~Bio~~ plastics

Bioplastics are **not yet** an alternative to «normal» plastics. The use of biodegradable plastics can only be considered advantageous in a few specific ranges of application, such as - for example - plastic films needed for agricultural uses which are intended to remain in the ground for a certain period of time and rot in the environment for operational reasons. **Why?**

1. the term «bioplastic» is neither defined nor protected:

Bioplastics can (they do not need to) be made entirely of biodegradable substances. The majority of products currently on the market are made of a mixture of different types of plastic, only a few of which are completely and truly biodegradable.

2.

danger of greenwashing:

The certification as " bioplastic ", as well as similar labels or designations, does NOT automatically mean that the products can be completely composted with biowaste in your garden within a reasonable time period. In addition, these "bioplastic articles" must not simply be disposed of in nature because they cannot completely degrade in the environment either.

3.

The term «compostable» generally refers only to an industrial compostability.

Even in an industrial environment, complete decomposition can rarely be guaranteed, despite the increase in temperatures and composting times. However, most people are unaware of the meaning of this term. As a result, there is an increased risk that plastic residues and microplastic particles (the smallest plastic particles that break off) will end up in nature or in the residents' gardens after incomplete composting.

4.

bioplastics have no place in the environment:

Depending on their composition, «bioplastics» can have a lifetime of several months up to several years. Even if they are no longer visible to the naked eye, tiny plastic residues - called microplastics - almost always remain in the environment and accumulate in our bodies and those of animals.



Further information on this subject is available in the study „Biologisch abbaubare Kunststoffe – Eigenschaften Verwendungsfelder, Entsorgung und Verwertung“ commissioned by the Environmental Administration and elaborated by the consulting group Eco-Counsel.



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