

Alpeorujo, olive mill compost application for soil fertilization

Goal	<p>Increase organic matter in soils and increase of yields.</p>
Short description of the measure	<p>Alpeorujo, a solid residue from the olive oil extraction in mills, can be used as an organic amendment that can contribute to restoring the organic matter in soils. However, alpeorujo shall be stabilized before its use, due to nutrient richness and toxic compounds that can be potentially be leached to water bodies or affect soil biodiversity.</p>  <p>Overview of the olive grove by application of alpeorujo compost.</p>
Quality elements of soundly implemented biodiversity measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soil improvement, closing nutrient loops by re-using nutrients and avoiding mineral fertilizers. ▪ An increase of 8 % in yield has been proven with alpeorujo compost applications.
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>A fertile soil is a living soil that would increase biodiversity. In addition, well-structured and living soils are also more resilient to tackle climate change.</p> <p>This practice has brought benefits both in the medium and long term related to the content of organic matter, such as the son in general of the Andalusian olive groves. In addition, it has been quantified that producing alpeorujo compost in the amount needed to replace the N, P and K removed with the harvest costs less than half that of the chemical, individual and combined fertilizers that are currently used most.</p>
Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A great richness in organic matter, moderately acidic pH, a relatively low salt content, a slightly high C / N ratio and high potassium richness, mean nitrogen and lower phosphorus content. ▪ Waste management. ▪ Saving agricultural inputs. ▪ Improvements in yields. ▪ Self-sufficiency in fertilizers.

Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of kg/ha of the alpeorujo compost used as fertilizer
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.agenciasinc.es/Noticias/El-abono-procedente-del-procesado-de-aceite-mejora-el-suelo-del-olivar ▪ www.academia.edu/18279612/Application_of_compost_of_two-phase_olive_mill_waste_on_olive_grove_Effects_on_soil_olive_fruit_and_olive_oil_quality ▪ www.olipe.com/blogwp/fertiliza-tu-olivos-huertos-y-arboles-frutales-con-organo-lipe ▪ www.olipe.com/blogwp/diferencias-entre-el-compost-vegetal-de-alpeorujo-organo-lipe-abonos-organicos-y-abonos-organominerales/ ▪ www.olipe.com/blogwp/aprovechamiento-y-reciclaje-de-los-subproductos-de-olivarera-los-pedroches

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for managers of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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