

Alperujo, 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>Alperujo, 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, ALPERUJO 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>The waste must be mixed with sheep or horse manure and pruning at different proportions, a compost place or installation must be built. These installations are small or medium-sized plants located on land belonging to oil mills. They consist of a waterproofed surface generally in reinforced concrete to prevent possible contamination of soil and aquifers. The alperujo is mixed with manures from sheep or horses and with the pruning or olive leaf itself from the cleaning of the olive, to give it structure and to add it to the generality to improve its nitrogen content. Simple, open composting systems are used that use mechanical flips to aerate the batteries. Once composted, the usual fate of the compost is to incorporate it into the groves of the olive groves associated with the mills themselves.</p>
Timeframe <small>(When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)</small>	<p>No timeframe needed.</p>
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<p>Check if there is compost of alperujo applied in the olive groves.</p> <p>Some measures to control the process of compost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relation C/N ▪ Compost moist between 50–70 %
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	
Effects on biodiversity <small>(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)</small>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <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> </div>

	<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 alperujo 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>
<p>Indicator/key data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of kg/ha of the alperujo compost used as fertilizer
<p>Reference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.compostandociencia.com/2013/08/compost-de-alperujo-html/ ▪ Handnook to make a good compost of ALPERUJO, www.juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/estudio_compost2.pdf ▪ 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-organ-olipe/ ▪ www.olipe.com/blogwp/diferencias-entre-el-compost-vegetal-de-alperujo-organ-olipe-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 auditors 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.

Editor: LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Fundación Global Nature

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