



Growing Media
Europe

EU fertilisers regulation and Strubias

ESPP stakeholder event, Brussels, 5th of September 2018

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GME representing Growing Media industry



- Small industry
- 1,3 billion EUR
- Mainly SME's

- BUT key role in horticulture, food production, urban green and gardening

Our products

- Constant reduction of primary raw materials
- Towards **responsibly produced** primary RM
- **Circular products:**
 - Green waste compost, barks, plant fibers, coir products, coffee grounds, rice hulls, spent substrates, ...

**Tailor-made
products in
constant
innovation**



EU Fertilizers Regulation - why to deal with it?

- Harmonized standards on **quality, safety and labelling** for growing media and soil improvers
- “CE-labelled” and freely traded within the internal market of the EU
- Potential removal of existing trade barriers
- Circular economy package



Outstanding issues for GM products

- **Certification**
 - About 95% of Growing media and soil improvers contain **some sort of CMC2**
 - Broaden Module A: conformity assessment for CMC 2 products
- **Tailor-made** products made by SME's
 - Thousands of different products
 - Depending on clients' needs
- Growing media are an extremely sensible supply in horticulture
 - **Self-certification** is common practice, without any risks in the past



Outstanding issues for GM products

- Definitions
 - CMC2:
widen definition, in order not to block innovation and use of circular products

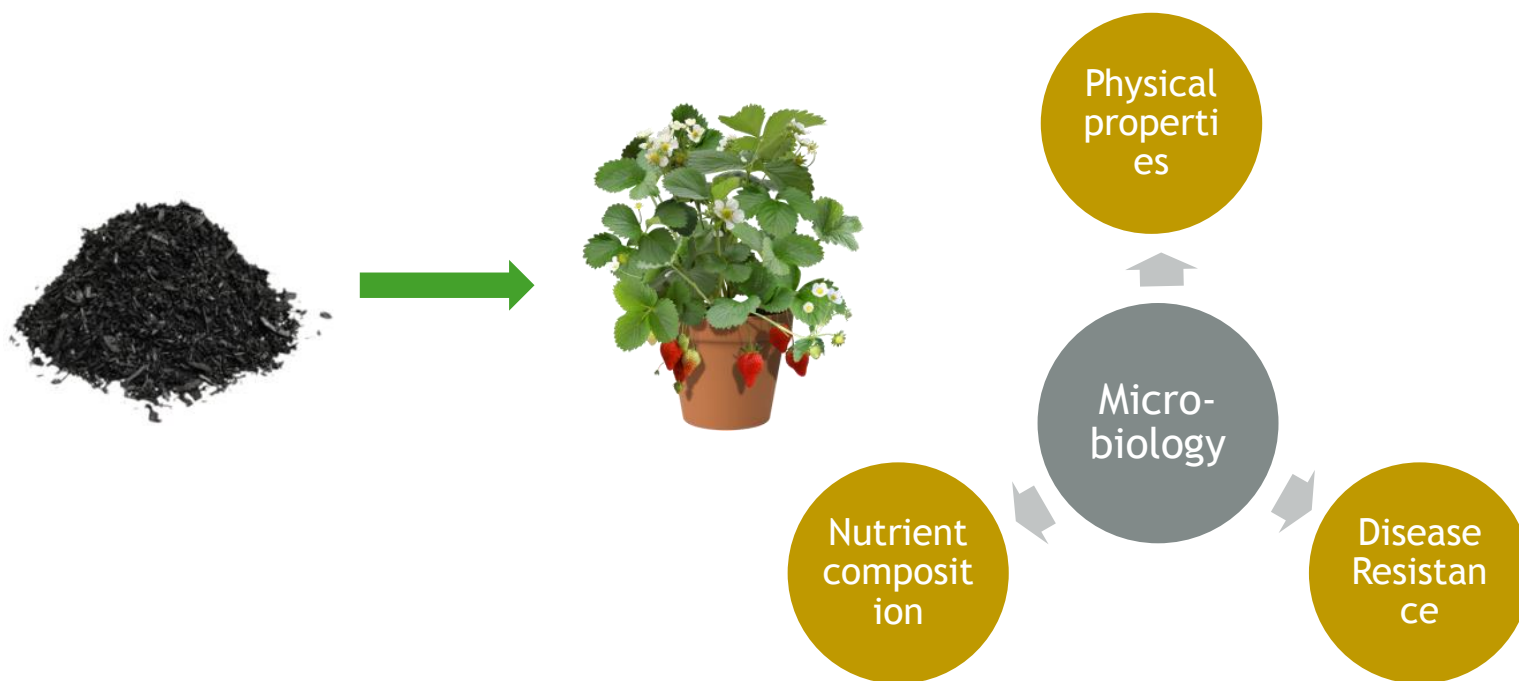
A CE marked fertilising product may contain plants, plant parts or plant extracts having undergone no other processing than cutting, grinding, centrifugation, *sieving, milling*, pressing, drying, freeze-drying, *buffering, extrusion, radiation, frost-treatment, sanitation by using heat*, extraction with water *or any other preparation/processing that does not render the final substance subject to registration under Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 (REACH-Regulation)*.

- PFC 3 soil improver:
Unclear whether the definition includes mulches
“95% of solely biological origin”, excludes many composts
- PFC 4 growing medium:
Conformity to the CEN definition

Outstanding issues for GM products

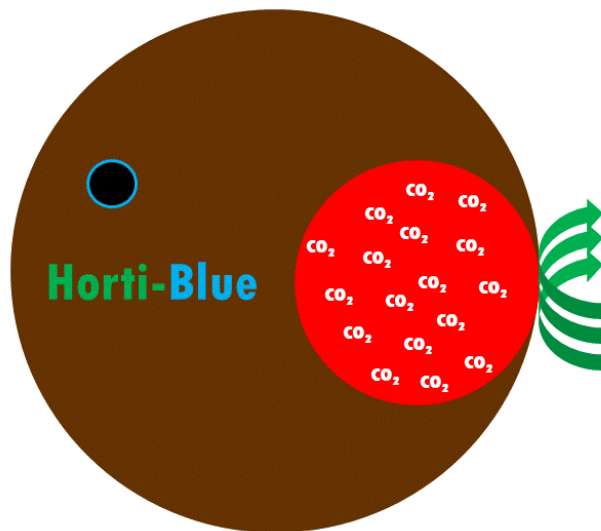
- Labelling and tolerance rules
 - PCF 4
 - Council mandate proposes CAT soluble analysis method
 - Inappropriate for circular products, such as organic fertilisers
 - **Proposal:** amount of intentionally added NPK
 - PFC 3 & PFC 4
 - “at any time in the distribution chain”
 - Properties change after production, especially with circular products
- Pathogen limits for PFC3 & PFC4
 - E.coli & enterococcaceae,
 - Not suitable as safety criterium
 - Only few species can be harmful
 - **Proposal:** guarantee absolute absence of dangerous species (STEC) and only when ABP are used

Biochar in GM products



Biochar in GM products

Horti-BlueC: Sustainable up-cycling of agro-, agrofood and fisheries residues in horticulture and agriculture as bio-energy, biochar and chitin-rich products



Interreg 
EUROPEAN UNION
2 Seas Mers Zeeën
Horti-BlueC

European Regional Development Fund



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Thank you!

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