

Agricultural Polymers International Ltd

Waverley House, Waverley Road, Gloucester GL2 0SZ, U.K.

Tel: 44 (0)1452 521733 Fax: 44(0)1452 307092 E-mail: info@agripol.co.uk Internet: www.agripol.co.uk

SYNOPSIS OF TEST RESULTS WITH BROADLEAF P4 BY ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Broadleaf P4 was tested by Elmbridge Borough Council on three different spheres of application: (1) Pot Geraniums; (2) Border Soil for Summer Bedding; (3) Open Ground Ornamental Tree Planting. The results of the tests are summarised as follows:

1. Pot Geraniums.

2,500 grown in 1 litre pots with P4 in the compost (1 gm/litre); 5,500 without polymer.

(a) Approximately 12% saving on watering was achieved with P4 treatment. This meant saving 5 man-hours Saturday watering at time and a half labour cost, and 5 man-hours Sunday watering at double time.

(b) The P4-treated Geraniums came into flowering approximately 2 weeks ahead of the untreated.

(c) A 16% saving was achieved in compost requirement as a result of the bulking effect of the polymer.

2. Border Soils for Summer Bedding.

Broadleaf P4 was forked into the top 23 cms (9 inches) of a sandy-soil border, at 100 grams per square metre, prior to planting Fuchsias, Geraniums and Petunias. Four adjacent borders, similarly planted were left untreated for comparison.

(a) Watering was required on the polymer treated bed 7 times through the next 16 weeks whereas the untreated beds needed watering 52 times over the same period. This represents a saving on watering costs in the order of 86.54%.

(b) Plants in the polymer treated bed grew and flowered much better than the untreated bed.

(c) The Fuchsias and Geraniums in the polymer treated bed produced many more usable cuttings per plant, at the end of the season, than did the untreated plants.

3. Open Ground Ornamental Tree Planting.

300 Standard trees (2m+) were planted around the Borough, 150 with P4 at the recommended rate (1 gram per litre of planting pocket capacity) and 150 without. The area has light, sandy soil. No maintenance watering was given.

(a) No losses to drought were incurred with P4 treatment; 20% were lost to drought where polymer was not used.

(b) At least double the extension growth was achieved with the P4 treated trees compared with the untreated trees.

The Borough estimates that £330.00 worth of P4 provided a gross saving of £1,400.00.