

Environmental Choice^M Program

CERTIFICATION CRITERIA DOCUMENT

CCD-092



Product : Drought-resistant Planting System Kits

Preamble

The Environmental Choice Program is designed to support a continuing effort to improve and/or maintain environmental quality by reducing energy and materials consumption and by minimizing the impacts of pollution generated by the production, use and disposal of goods and services available to Canadians.

Landscaping plants (trees, shrubs, bushes and perennial flowers) are used for both ornamental and soil remediation purposes. An important landscaping issue is delivery of sufficient water for healthy, sustained plant growth. This issue may be addressed through the certification of planters or planting systems which are designed to minimize water loss through evaporation.

Another landscaping issue is the material requirements for the planters themselves. Most current options require the use of ceramic or plastic from non-renewable sources. This issue may be addressed through the certification of planting systems which are made of recycled materials.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the following product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through increased water conservation and a reduction in materials going to landfill.

Notice

Throughout this document, any reference to a standard or guideline means to its latest edition.

The Environmental Choice Program (ECP) reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this document.

Interpretation

1. In this set of requirements, please note the following definitions:

“Drought-resistant Planting System” means a composite system of components designed to support and irrigate plants used for landscaping and/or soil remediation. Such a system could include *inter alia*, a reservoir for the plant root system, a separate reservoir that contains water in such a way to resist evaporation losses (e.g., a used automobile tire), wicks or other means to efficiently transport water between those two reservoirs and appropriate material(s) to enhance the product aesthetically;

“Drought-resistant Planting System Kit” means a kit containing appropriate materials that may be combined with a used tire to manufacture or produce a drought-resistant planting system. Drought-resistant planting system kits include a reservoir for the plant root system, wicks or other means to efficiently transport water between the used tire and plant reservoir and appropriate instructions for set-up, use and final disposal of the product;

“ECP-44” means the Environmental Choice Program’s Certification Criteria Document *ECP 44: Adhesives*;

“greenhouse gas” means an anthropogenically-generated gas suspected of enhancing the atmosphere’s natural heat-trapping abilities, thus leading to potential alteration of natural climatic patterns; relevant gases to include, *inter alia*, carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFC’s), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC’s) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFC’s);

“hazardous compounds associated with waste tires” means chemical elements and compounds, either used in tire manufacture (or by-products thereof) or taken up during tire use that may be retained by tires at the end of their useful life; such substances are a concern due to their potential to leach into the receiving environment, and include *inter alia*, benzothiazoles, aniline, arylamines, alkylphenols and metals such as zinc;

“inner planting module” means a component of a planting system designed to securely holds the plant root and facilitate watering (e.g., through a “wicking” effect);

“post-consumer material” means a product which has served its end-use at the consumer level, has been discarded by the consumer, and would, unless diverted, enter the waste stream;

“PVC” means polyvinyl chloride, an industrial plastic derived from the polymerization of vinyl chloride, also known as chloroethene (CH₂CHCl); and

“volatile organic compound” or **“VOC”** means any organic compound which participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions. This definition excludes those organic compounds which the ECP designates as having negligible photochemical reactivity; a list of which appears in Appendix A.

General Requirements

2. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^M, the ***Drought-resistant Planting System Kits*** must:
 - (a) meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards; and
 - (b) be provided in such a manner that all steps of the process, including the disposal of waste products arising therefrom, will meet the requirements of all applicable governmental acts, by laws and regulations including, for facilities located in Canada, the *Fisberies Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA).

Product Specific Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^M, the ***Drought-resistant Planting System Kits*** must:
- (a) be comprised of only the following components:
 - i) instructions for set-up, use and proper disposal,
 - ii) inner planting module, and
 - iii) wick or wicking material;
 - (b) be designed to utilize a used tire as the irrigation reservoir;
 - (c) demonstrate no significant leaching of hazardous compounds associated with waste tires when they are used with the kit;
 - (d) demonstrate reduced watering needs over those associated with regular clay pots and/or other planters when used with standard watering practices;
 - (e) not be sold in any jurisdiction in which either:
 - i) the use of used tires violates any local bylaws, or
 - ii) consumers would be subject to legal or monetary penalty when re-introducing used tire to the local tire-reclamation infrastructure;
 - (f) be sold in accompaniment with comprehensive and appropriate instructions that:
 - i) clearly explain set-up, effective use of and final disposal of the planting system,
 - ii) provides specific information on regulatory and financial aspects of ultimate tire disposal, including, *inter alia*, effects pertaining to Tire Disposal Taxes (TDT's), the consumer's need to confirm local jurisdictional requirements and final disposal options, and
 - iii) recommends only ECP-approved aesthetic dressings to be used with the kit. These dressing include products that meet the criteria defined in Appendix A, and include *inter alia*:
 - reinforced polyurethane tarp material,
 - long spun-bonded polyester fibres on a polyurethane substrate,
 - biodegradable, hand-woven reed mats, and
 - rock dust with no added colourants;
 - (g) include an inner planting module that:
 - i) is manufactured from 100% post-consumer recycled material, and
 - ii) does not include any PVC or other chlorinated resin; and
 - (h) include a wick or wicking material that:
 - i) must be made of polyester;
 - ii) must not include any PVC or other chlorinated resin, and
 - iii) is capable of transferring 500 ml of water within a 24-hour period;

4. Organizations that construct or manufacture planters using the ***drought-resistant planting system kit*** may apply to the Environmental Choice Program for secondary licensing in order to use the EcoLogo in association with the final constructed planter. The EcoLogo may ***not*** be used with the final construct planter unless this licensing condition is met.

Secondary licensees wishing to augment drought-resistant planting systems through the addition of aesthetic dressings must additionally meet the criteria defined in Appendix A.

Verification



5. To verify a claim that a product meets the criteria listed in this document, the ECP will require access, as is its normal practice, to relevant purchasing records, quality control and production records and the right of access to production facilities on an announced basis.
6. If applicable, compliance with requirement 2(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the licensee. The ECP shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any noncompliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any noncompliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the license agreement.

Conditions for EcoLogo Use

7. The EcoLogo may appear on wholesale or retail packaging, or on the product itself, provided that the product meets the requirements in this document.
8. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo.
9. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this guideline, the license agreement and the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M*.
10. A criteria statement must appear with the EcoLogo whenever the EcoLogo is used in association with the ***Drought-resistant Planting System Kits***. The intent of this statement is to provide clarification as to why the product was certified and to indicate constraints to which the certification is limited. This is to ensure no ambiguity over, or misrepresentation of, the reason(s) for certification.

ECP suggested criteria statement wording for this product type is “*Drought-resistant Planting System Kits*”. The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement, but any such proposed wording must be approved by the Environmental Choice Program.

11. The EcoLogo, the words “Environmental Choice” or any other reference to the Environmental Choice Program must not be used in association with any marketing material dealing with emission credits or any other climate change/greenhouse effect-related issue.

	<p>For more information about the EcoLogoTM Program, please direct your inquiry to: The EcoLogoTM Program 171 Nepean Street, Suite 400 Ottawa, ON, K2P 0B4 Phone: 1.800.478.0399 www.ecologo.org</p>	
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Appendix A - Certification Criteria for Optional Aesthetic Dressings

Certification criteria for *Drought-resistant Planting System Kits* specifically prohibit the inclusion of aesthetic dressings for the planting device within the kits, as marketed by the primary applicant. Nonetheless, it is recognized that there may be consumer interest in covering the used tire and other components with appropriate materials to improve the planting system's aesthetics. Further recognizing the potential environmental impacts of using inappropriate dressing materials, Section 4(f) iii) specifically requires the kit producer to promote the use of dressing materials that meet the following criteria.

Secondary licensees choosing to add aesthetic dressings, either in the manufacture of complete drought-resistant planting systems or before resale of the *drought-resistant planting system kits* must also meet the following criteria.

1. The dressing must be an inert coating material that meets the following:
 - (a) is formulated or manufactured with materials that are recyclable, reusable, biodegradable, and/or pose no significant environmental impact upon final disposal; and
 - (b) is formulated or manufactured with non-toxic materials.
2. The dressing material must be attached to the drought-resistant planting system by way of:
 - (a) a purely mechanical means (e.g., staples, thumb tacks) that include no plastic coatings, varnishes or other finishes, or
 - (b) an adhesive that either meets the requirements of ECP-44 or the following:
 - (i) must not be formulated or manufactured with the following:
 - a* aromatic solvents,
 - b* borax,
 - c* formaldehyde,
 - d* any halogenated solvent, and/or
 - e* mercury, lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium or their compounds;
 - (ii) must not contain volatile organic compounds in excess of 5% by weight of whole formulation as measured by a test method acceptable to ECP; and
 - (iii) has been used, and residues disposed of, according to instructions provided, so as to minimize health concerns and maximize performance.
3. The dressing material must be readily and easily removable for final disposal of the tire, without leaving any residues that require disposal as a hazardous waste material.