

Fertiliser or plant protection product (PPP)

It is a unclear line between some fertiliser products and PPP. This especially true for the group called biostimulants.

Some countries have national regulations for the biostimulants falling out of the scopes of regulation (EC) 1107/2009 (placing of plant protection products on the market) others are without regulation on such substances.

In Norway they are covered by the regulation on mineral fertilisers and liming materials.

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New EU regulation on fertilisers

Since 2012 EU have been working on a new fertiliser regulation covering organ and inorganic ferilisers, soil improvers, growing medias, biostimulants etc.

In this work it have been tried to differentiate biostimulants from PPP. It is likely that biostimulant products have to be registered with a documentation package. Then there will a certain percentage that will be controlled by ECHA.

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Proposed definition

A plant biostimulant is any substance or microorganism, in the form in which it is supplied to the user, applied to plants, seeds or the root environment with the intention to stimulate natural processes of plants benefiting nutrient use efficiency and/or tolerance to abiotic stress, and/or crop quality, regardless of its nutrients content, or any combination of such substances and/or microorganisms intended for this use.

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Definition PPP (excerpts)

- Protecting plants or plant products against all harmful organisms or preventing the action of such organisms, unless the main purpose of these products is considered to be for reasons of hygiene rather than for the protection of plants or plant products
- Influencing the life processes of plants, such as substances influencing their growth, other than as a nutrient;

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PPP marketed as biostimulants

The definition of PPP is wide. Products marketed preventing or any other action against harmful organisms fall within the definitions. Also substances which are stimulating the self-defense mechanisms or life processes of the plant are PPP(except nutrients).

EU have decided that any products marketed with *phosphite* should be considered as a PPP. The reason is that there is not found enough evidence that it has any positive effects that are not related to its effect against fungus. Potassium *phosphite* has been marketed as a biostimulant for sport turfs.

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Chemicals/organisms marketed for golf courses

Main groups

- Fertilisers
- PPP
- Biostimulants
- Biocides

Examples

- Mycorrhiza, bacteria and nematodes
- Active coal to melt snow and ice
- Product to remove fuel, hydraulic and lubricating oils from turf.
- Wetting agents
- Drying agents
- Agents for dew and guttation control
- Products to break down the thatch
- Oxygenating agents
- Colorant for ponds and lakes
- Agents for removing algae in ponds and lakes
- Agents for restoration of neglected ponds and lakes
- Biofilters
- Paint and indicator colors for grass

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Example of marketing of biostimulants for golf courses

- Increase overall plant health and disease resistance.
- Suppresses an increase in growth of fungal diseases.
- Fewer diseases - dew causes fungal diseases
- Strengthens cell walls for stronger disease resistant grass (Silicon).

Some products have double effect. It can have positive effects on plant growth that is independent on its effect against pests, but if the product is marketed with PPP effects it should be approved as such.

In Norway we have law that regulates invasive alien species that importers of products containing living organisms need to follow. The plant health legislation may also in some cases be relevant.

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