



SUMMARY TRIAL REPORT

Usage of TerraCottem[®] Universal and TerraCottem[®] Complement in flower beds

Research by:

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For many years, the horticultural department at Oudenaarde has been using potting soil ameliorated with TerraCottem[®] to plant up its flower baskets, tiered planters and barrier baskets, building up a good track-record. Consequently, the extension of TerraCottem's range of products seemed promising to Oudenaarde the more so as TerraCottem expressed the intention of setting up a number of field trials in 2009.

1. Trial

Oudenaarde's Horticultural Department is aware that TerraCottem[®] Universal is still active in the potting soil after the first growing season. That is why they recycled the "old" 2008 potting soil as an amendment for the annual beds (*Begonia*, *Tagetes* and *Salvia*). A number of trial locations were carefully selected throughout the city. The trial was set up between the end of May and beginning of June 2009:

- control areas (without the addition of either the recycled potting soil or TerraCottem[®] complement)
- areas with only the recycled potting soil
- areas with the recycled potting soil and TerraCottem[®] Complement.

The amendments have been mixed into the soil either manually or mechanically. All beds have been watered after planting them up. However, there have been very few irrigation rounds during the trial period despite the climate data from the Belgian Royal Meteorological Institute indicating that Oudenaarde had abnormal high temperatures and low rainfall (40% less than normal) during these months. Pictures of the trial areas were taken at regular intervals.

About Oudenaarde and its flowers

Every spring and summer Oudenaarde's city centre is covered in flowers. This flower *fest* with thousands of annuals embellishing parks, squares and road medians is a pleasure to the eye for both the inhabitants of this historical city and its growing number of visitors. The city's consistent effort to improve quality and beauty has been amply rewarded. Oudenaarde has been bestowed with titles such as Best Flowered City, Silver Award at *Entente Florale*, etc.



2. Results

The positive impact on plant growth of the application of the recycled potting soil in combination with TerraCottem[®] Complement was clearly visible after just a couple of weeks. Bigger flowers with more blooms lead to a denser and uniform outgrowth of the flower beds. Despite the extreme climatic circumstances such as high temperatures and little rainfall, the usual irrigation frequency has been maintained. Additionally, a substantial extension of the flowering season has been recorded.

Some examples:

- **Location: Tacambaro parking**



Left: recycled TCU-potting soil + TerraCottem Complement; Right: control

→ 3 months after planting:



- **Location: Tacambaro park**

→ 4 months after planting:



Left: control;

right: recycled TCU-potting soil + TerraCottem Complement

3. Conclusions

The results clearly demonstrate the added value of TerraCottem's new product. By combining old recycled potting soil (containing TerraCottem® Universal) with TerraCottem Complement® flower beds flourish right until the end of the season.