IS 15177 : 2002

Indian Standard

SURFACE COVERED CULTIVATION — PLASTICS MULCHING — CODE OF PRACTICE

FOREWORD

This Indian Standard was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards, after the draft finalized by the Agricultural Produce Processing and Milling Machinery and Surface Covered Cultivation Structures Sectional Committee had been approved by the Food and Agriculture Division Council.

The practice of mulching in agriculture is very old. Crop residue, paper, soil, pebbles and synthetic materials have been used as mulches under diverse agro-climatic conditions. The main objectives of using the practice of mulching have been water conservation, weed control and soil temperature modification. However, pest control and carbon di-oxide (CO_2) enrichment have also been observed as benefits of mulching. With the advent of plastics films, it has been possible to achieve the whole range of benefits provided the right kind of material is used correctly. Plastics mulching have become very relevant for sustainable environment-friendly agriculture because it reduces the requirements of fertiliser and agro-chemicals by better utilisation efficiency. The plastics mulching also reduces soil erosion. A need has been felt to include relevant information in this standard to guide prospective users to select appropriate plastics mulch films for the intended applications and use it correctly.

In preparation of this standard, considerable assistance have been derived from Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 1960 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (revised)'. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be the same that of the specified value in this standard.

1 SCOPE

This standard covers recommendations for the selection of plastics mulch film and the methods of application.