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Evolution of the composting process with semi-permeable film technology at industrial scale

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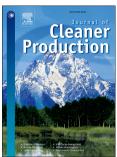
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Evolution of the composting process with semi-permeable film technology at
2	industrial scale
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11	Abstract
12	This study evaluated the composting process of a mixture of sewage sludge and bulking
13	agent in a semi-closed system at industrial scale, which consisted of an aerated static
14	windrow covered with a semi-permeable film. Physical-chemical and respirometric
15	variables were studied and bacteria and fungi were monitored to assess the improvement
16	in the composting process. The system was compared with conventional open windrows
17	in which lengthy composting times are required to obtain stabilized compost, compost
18	sanitation is not always reached and periodical turning must be carried out to avoid
19	anaerobic conditions. The high temperatures reached and maintained during the stage
20	under the semi-permeable film ($\approx 80^{\circ}\text{C}$) permitted the sanitation of the compostable
21	substrate, as demonstrated by the rapid disappearance of Salmonella sp. and the
22	decrease in E. coli in only 5 days of the process. The total microorganism concentration
23	also decreased during the composting process. The rapid decrease in carbon content
24	expressed in volatile solids (VS) (around 41%) showed that the composting process
25	carried out under the semi-permeable film could be shortened to 30 days. The evolution
26	of thermophilic and mesophilic bacteria and fungi was conditioned by the windrow

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