

# Gardening products and services

## Green Public procurement (GPP) Product Sheet



This Product Sheet forms part of the European Commission's GPP Training Toolkit, which can be downloaded from the GPP website [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm). Similar product sheets have been established for ten other product and service groups. More information on the reasons for selecting these criteria can be found in the [detailed background report](#) on the website.

For each product/service group two sets of criteria are presented:

- **Core GPP criteria** address the most significant environmental impacts, and are designed to be used with minimum additional verification effort or cost increases
- **Comprehensive GPP criteria** are intended for use by authorities who seek to purchase the best environmental products available on the market, and may require additional administrative effort or imply a certain cost increase as compared to other products fulfilling the same function

### 1 Scope

This Product Sheet covers procurement activities for the maintenance of green public areas: the gardening products, machinery and services for the maintenance of public green areas<sup>1</sup>.

Gardening services may be carried out directly by the contracting authority's own staff or through a service company. The document will therefore provide criteria both for the direct procurement of the main products/elements used in garden maintenance: plant species, soil improvers, gardening materials and tools, machinery (lawnmowers, shredders...) and irrigation systems; and for the procurement of gardening services for which additional specifications on transport and contract clauses will be defined.

<sup>1</sup> For aspects related to construction, some information can be found in the Construction and Furniture background reports and product sheets.

- [Construction background report](#)
- [Construction product sheet](#)
- [Furniture background report](#)
- [Furniture product sheet](#)

Some environmental aspects of gardening services remain outside the scope of these recommendations, such as the use of light and heavy-duty vehicles and of staff uniforms, because these elements are covered by other product groups, namely transport (for vehicles) and textiles (for personnel uniforms)<sup>2</sup>.

## 1.1

## Gardening products

Criteria are proposed for the main products and equipment used in gardening. These are:

- soil improvers
- ornamental plants
- irrigation systems
- garden machinery
- lubricant oils

In order to define the specifications, the criteria of existing ecolabels have been used. Although in some cases it is difficult to prioritise certain criteria, as they are inter-linked, a distinction has been made between Core and Comprehensive criteria.

The **Core** criteria are aimed at reducing the main environmental impacts of the product and are, in most cases, easy to verify and do not require much additional effort from bidders.

The **Comprehensive** set of criteria also includes specifications which require more substantial information from bidders or imply more complicated verification procedures for contracting authorities.

For irrigation systems, however, no distinction has been made between Core and Comprehensive criteria because, in order to install water efficient irrigation systems, almost all the criteria are necessary, making it difficult to differentiate between the two levels. Furthermore, as the criteria are not complicated for bidders to prove compliance with or difficult for contracting authorities to check, it was deemed unnecessary to differentiate.

<sup>2</sup> Criteria for those product groups can be found in the corresponding background reports and product sheets.

- [Transport background report](#)
- [Transport product sheet](#)
- [Textiles background report](#)
- [Textiles product sheet](#)

1.2

## Gardening services

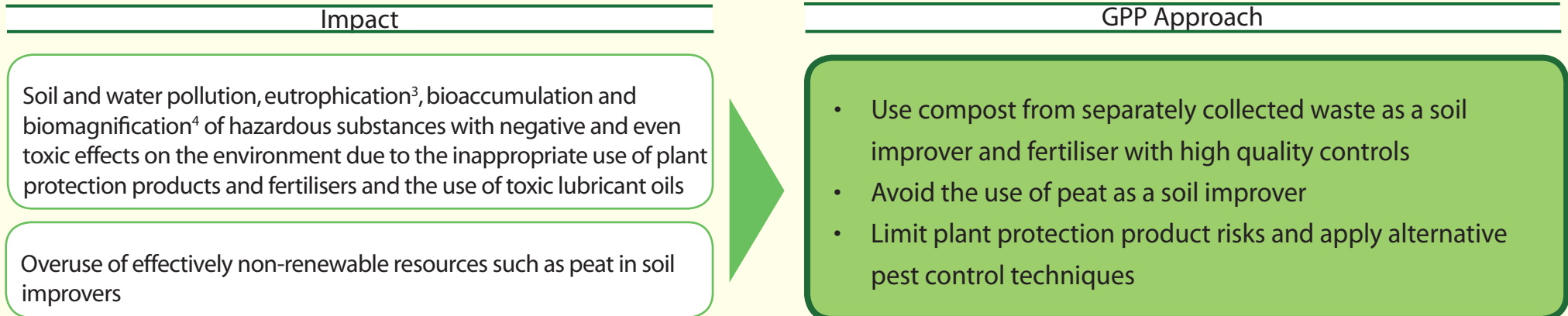
Where gardening services are contracted out criteria have been proposed both for the products to be used and the practices to be implemented in carrying out the service.

Alongside technical specifications and selection criteria a number of contract clauses have been recommended which cannot be assessed during the tendering process. Therefore special monitoring efforts will be needed during the management of the contract.

The differentiation between the **Core** and **Comprehensive** criteria sets are based on:

- the differentiation between Core and Comprehensive criteria for the procurement of products and machinery
- the frequency and impact of the different gardening tasks
- the level of proof required for evaluating the technical capacity of the companies

## 2 Key environmental impacts (in sense of environmental degradation)



<sup>3</sup> Eutrophication is the process whereby bodies of water (such as lakes, estuaries, or slow-moving streams) become over-enriched with nutrients which results in the excessive growth of plants (algae, nuisance plants weeds...). When this enhanced plant growth dies and decomposes, the dissolved oxygen in water is reduced, which can lead to the death of aquatic organisms (such as fish). Nutrients can come from many anthropogenic (human) sources, such as fertilisers applied to fields; erosion of soil; deposition of nitrogen from the atmosphere; and sewage treatment plant discharges.

<sup>4</sup> Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a toxic substance at a rate greater than that at which the substance is excreted or degraded biologically. Biomagnification is the increase in concentration of a substance which occurs in a food chain as a consequence of: food chain energetic and low (or non-existent) rate of excretion/degradation of the substance. Although sometimes used interchangeably with 'bioaccumulation,' an important distinction is drawn between the two. Bioaccumulation occurs within an organism, and biomagnification occurs across trophic (food chain) levels.

High potable water consumption

Environmental impacts during the production of ornamental plants

High organic waste generation

High packaging waste generation

Noise and atmospheric pollution from gardening machinery

- Use (whenever possible) non-potable water, install efficient irrigation systems and apply different measures to reduce water demand such as mulching, plant arrangements according to their hydric needs or selection of adapted/native ornamental plants
- Procure preferably organically produced and native ornamental plants
- Ensure selective waste collection and organic waste treatment for composting and mulching
- Procure products delivered in recycled, compostable, reusable, recyclable or biodegradable packaging
- Use low-noise, low-emission and low-consumption machinery together with environmentally friendlier fuels
- Use rapidly biodegradable and not potentially bioaccumulative lubricants or regenerated oils for gardening machines
- Train staff appropriately

## 3 Gardening products – GPP criteria

### 3.1 Soil improvers

#### 3.1.a) Soil improvers - core criteria

##### Subject matter

Purchase of environmentally friendly soil improvers.

##### Specifications

###### General constituents

1. The product shall not contain the following substances:
  - Peat
  - Sewage sludge
2. Organic matter content must be derived from the processing and/or re-use of waste (as defined in Council Directive 2006/12/EC of 5 April 2006 on waste and its Annex I).
3. (Non-sewage) sludges are allowed only if they are identified as one of the following wastes according to the European list of wastes (as defined by Commission Decision 2001/118/EC of 16 January 2001 amending Decision 2000/532/EC as regards the list of wastes and when these have not been mixed with effluents or sludge outside the specific production process):
  - 020305 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the preparation and processing of fruit, vegetables, cereals, edible oils, cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco; conserve production; yeast and yeast extract production, molasses preparation and fermentation.
  - 020403 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in sugar processing.
  - 020502 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in dairy products industry.
  - 020603 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in baking and confectionery industry
  - 020705 sludges from on-site effluent treatment in the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa).

Maximum concentrations of heavy metals in the waste before treatment (mg/kg dry weight) must meet the requirements of the next criterion on hazardous substances.

###### Verification (for specifications 1,2 & 3):

Bidders must provide the detailed composition of the product, the origin of organic matter and a declaration of compliance with the above requirements. Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted.

###### Hazardous substances

4. In the final product, the content of the following elements shall be lower than the values shown below, measured in terms of dry weight:

###### Element - mg/kg (dry weight)

Zn - 300	Cr - 100
Cu - 100	Mo (*) - 2
Ni - 50	Se (*) - 1.5
Cd - 1	As (*) - 10
Pb - 100	F (*) - 200
Hg - 1	

(\*)Data relating to the presence of these elements are needed only for products containing material from industrial processes.

###### Verification:

Bidders must provide the relevant test reports (EN 13650, ISO 16772 or equivalent) demonstrating that the above criterion is met. Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report of an independent body, will also be accepted

### 3.1.b) Soil improvers - Comprehensive GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Purchase of environmentally friendly soil improvers.

#### Specifications

1. The Ecological requirements for the EU Ecolabel for soil improvers must be met (full criteria documents available at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l\\_325/l\\_32520061124en00280034.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_325/l_32520061124en00280034.pdf))

##### Verification:

The EU Ecolabel will be accepted as proof of compliance, as will any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.

### 3.1.c) Soil improvers - Explanatory notes

#### Explanatory notes

- **Ecolabel criteria:** It is possible to indicate that the criteria underlying a certain ecolabel are met, as long as the criteria are eligible for defining the product, and other forms of compliance verification besides the ecolabel are also accepted.
- **Inserting full criteria:** Some contracting authorities may prefer to insert the complete criteria set rather than simply refer to the EU, on the condition that all the criteria are relevant for defining the product. The complete criteria set is included in Annex II of the [Background Product Report](#).
- **Growing media products:** The EU Ecolabel also has developed criteria for growing media products. Normally their use is limited to plant's nurseries, however if they are used as soil improvers, they will have to comply with the same criteria specified above for the Core set and with the full EU Ecolabel criteria for the Comprehensive set, available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:032:0137:0143:EN:PDF>.

## 3.2

### Ornamental plants - Core GPP criteria

#### 3.2.a) Ornamental plants - Core GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Purchase of ornamental plants and trees, a % of which has been organically grown.

#### Specifications

##### Plant characteristics

1. [X]% of ornamental plants must be plant species suitable for the local growing conditions (e.g. soil acidity, average rainfall, range of temperature over the year etc.). In Annex [X] there is a list with the species considered appropriate by the contracting authority [to be prepared by the contracting authority].
2. [X]% of ornamental plants must be organically produced according to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

**Verification (for specifications 1 and 2):**

Bidders must present a list of all the species they propose to supply, together with the prices and the total number of units to be delivered. Within this list bidders must clearly mark those species which have been included in Annex [X], and which have been produced organically, together with proof of organic origin.

### 3.2.b) Ornamental plants - Comprehensive GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Purchase of ornamental plants and trees complying with certain environmental criteria.

#### Specifications

##### **Plant characteristics**

- [X]% of ornamental plants must be plant species suitable for the local growing conditions (e.g. soil acidity, average rainfall, range of temperature over the year etc.). In Annex [X] there is a list with the species considered appropriate by the contracting authority [to be prepared by the contracting authority].
- [X]% of ornamental plants must be organically produced according to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

**Verification (for specifications 1 and 2):**

Bidders must present a list of all the species they propose to supply, together with the prices and the total number of units to be delivered. Within this list bidders must clearly mark those species which have been included in Annex [X], and which have been produced organically, together with proof of organic origin.

##### **Plant containers**

- Plants must be delivered in reusable or biodegradable containers. If plant containers are reusable, the company must take them back after the planting of the plants/trees. If plant containers are biodegradable, they must:
  - be made of 100% biodegradable (compostable) substances, such as straw, cork, wood flour, maize starch.
  - not contain synthetic plastic materials, plasticisers or biocide substances, such as found for example in biocides or preservatives.

**Verification:**

If containers are reusable, bidders must present a signed declaration stating that they will take back the plant containers selectively collected by gardening staff. If containers are biodegradable, bidders must provide a list of the product ingredients and their respective shares together with a declaration that the specifications are met. Plant containers carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply as well as products classified as biodegradable and compostable according to the EN 13432:2000 standard or equivalent.

##### **Packaging**

- Small plants must be supplied in returnable crates or boxes.

**Verification:**

Bidders must provide a signed declaration that they will meet this criterion.

### 3.2.c) Ornamental plants - Explanatory notes

- **Plants suitable for the local growing conditions:** The contracting authority will need to draw up a list with the most common plant species that are adapted to the soil acidity, average rainfall, range of temperature over the year, etc. of the region. Alternatively bidders can be asked to present their own list of appropriate plants, and the different bids can be compared.
- **Indigenous/native plants:** If the contracting authority wishes to increase the connectivity of urban green areas with the natural environment and create habitats for the fauna of the region in the city, it can specify that a percentage of plants must be indigenous or native to the region (which doesn't mean to be locally grown). The authority will need to draw up a list with the most common indigenous plant species of the region that are suitable for gardening. Such lists are generally readily available. Alternatively bidders can be asked to present their own list of indigenous plants, and the different bids can be compared.
- **Organically produced plants:** The availability of organically grown ornamental plants varies considerably from country to country. Where the contracting authority is unsure about the price and availability of products on the market it is advisable to carry out some initial market research to indicate whether products are available on the market and what the appropriate percentage should be. Alternatively this may be used as an award criterion.
- **% of plants suitable for local growing conditions and/or organically produced:** The contracting authority will have to specify how the percentage will be judged, either in volume, weight, or € spent.

3.3

### Irrigation systems - Core and Comprehensive GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Procurement of automatic irrigation systems.

#### Specifications

1. The irrigation system must be adjustable in terms of volume of dispensed water by zones.
2. The irrigation system must have adjustable timers, to programme the watering period.
3. The irrigation system must have hygrometers that measure soil humidity levels and automatically block irrigation when the humidity level of soil is high enough (for example after rain).

#### **Verification (for specifications 1, 2 & 3):**

Bidders must provide appropriate technical documentation demonstrating that these criteria are met.

3.4

### Gardening machinery

#### 3.4.a) Gardening machinery - core criteria

**Note:** The following criteria apply only to the following gardening machines:

- Lawn-mowers (incl. lawn tractors) and scarifiers
- Leaf collectors and leaf blowers
- Brush saws
- Auto-scythes
- Chainsaws
- Auto-hoes
- Strimmers
- Rotary cultivators
- Trimmers and hedge trimmers
- Compost shredders

## Subject matter

Procurement of environmentally friendly [insert the type/s of garden machine/s to be purchased according to the list above].

## Specifications

### Fuel types

1. If the machine has a combustion engine, this shall be designed so that it can be run on one or more of the following fuel grades: unleaded petrol with a benzene content of <1.0 % by volume, alkylate petrol, class A diesel oil, or biofuel-based engine fuel.

#### Verification:

Bidders must present a signed declaration of compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirement will be deemed to comply.

### Engine lubricants and fuel

2. The machines shall allow the use of biodegradable engine lubricant oils (for 2 stroke engines) or regenerated engine lubricant oils (for 4 stroke engines).

#### Verification:

Bidders must present a signed declaration of compliance.

### Noise emissions

3. The noise emission level of the machine shall be below the noise levels outlined in the table below. The machine shall be tested for noise output in accordance with the general standard specified in the EU Noise Directive (2000/14/EC), EN-ISO 3744/1995 and by a testing laboratory qualified under Article 15 of the same Directive.

Machine	Details	Maximum admissible value of sound power level $L_{WA}$
Lawn-mowers (incl. lawn tractors), scarifiers	L ≤ 50 cm: 50 < L ≤ 120 cm: L > 120 cm:	94 dB/1 pW 98 dB/1 pW 103 dB/1 pW
Brush saws	1,5 kW: > 1,5 kW:	107 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Chainsaws	2,5 kW: > 2,5 kW:	105 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Strimmers	Electric engine Combustion engine	94 dB/1 pW 104 dB/1 pW
Trimmers and hedge trimmers	Electric engine Combustion engine	96 dB/1 pW 103 dB/1 pW
Leaf collectors and leaf blowers	For professional use	105 dB/1 pW
Auto-scythes	1,5 kW: > 1,5 kW:	107 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Auto-hoes		96 dB/1 pW
Rotary cultivators		93 dB/1 pW

<sup>5</sup> L = cutting width

**Verification:**

The bidder must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier demonstrating compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply.

**Award criteria**

Additional points will be awarded for:

**1. Noise emissions**

Machines with lower noise emissions than the maximum included in the specifications.

**Verification:**

Bidders must present the laboratory test results, or an appropriate technical dossier indicating noise emission values according to the test methods outlined in the specifications or equivalent.

**2. Exhaust gas emissions**

Machines with exhaust gas emissions lower than those required by Directive 97/68/EC. The exhaust gas emission test of the machine shall be done in accordance with the general standard specified in EU Directive 97/68/EC and by a testing laboratory qualified under the same Directive.

**Verification:**

Bidders must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier.

### 3.4.b) Gardening machinery - Comprehensive GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Procurement of environmentally friendly [insert the type/s of garden machine/s to be purchased according to the list above].

#### Specifications

##### Fuel types

1. If the machine has a combustion engine, this shall be designed so that it can be run on one or more of the following fuel grades: unleaded petrol with a benzene content of <1.0 % by volume, alkylate petrol, class A diesel oil, or biofuel-based engine fuel.

##### Verification:

Bidders must present a signed declaration of compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirement will be deemed to comply.

##### Engine lubricants and fuel

2. The machines shall allow the use of biodegradable engine lubricant oils (for 2 stroke engines) or regenerated engine lubricant oils (for 4 stroke engines).

##### Verification:

Bidders must present a signed declaration of compliance.

3. The fuel consumption of four-stroke engines at 50% loading shall not be higher than 500-g/kWh fuel, measured according to ISO 8178 or equivalent.

##### Verification:

The result of the ISO test or equivalent shall be presented. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirement will be deemed to comply.

##### Noise emissions

4. The noise emission level of the machine shall be below the noise levels outlined in the table below. The machine shall be tested for noise output in accordance with the general standard specified in the EU Noise Directive (2000/14/EC), EN-ISO 3744/1995 and by a testing laboratory qualified under Article 15 of the same Directive.

Machine	Details	Maximum admissible value of sound power level $L_{WA}$
Lawn-mowers (incl. lawn tractors), scarifiers	L 50 cm: 50 < L 120 cm: L > 120 cm:	94 dB/1 pW 98 dB/1 pW 103 dB/1 pW
Brush saws	1,5 kW: > 1,5 kW:	107 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Chainsaws	2,5 kW: > 2,5 kW:	105 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Strimmers	Electric engine Combustion engine	94 dB/1 pW 104 dB/1 pW
Trimmers and hedge trimmers	Electric engine Combustion engine	96 dB/1 pW 103 dB/1 pW

<sup>6</sup> L = cutting width

Machine	Details	Maximum admissible value of sound power level LWA
Leaf collectors and leaf blowers	For professional use	105 dB/1 pW
Auto-scythes	1,5 kW: > 1,5 kW:	107 dB/1 pW 110 dB/1 pW
Auto-hoes		96 dB/1 pW
Rotary cultivators		93 dB/1 pW

**Verification:**

The bidder must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier demonstrating compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply.

**Machine materials and components**

5. The design of the machine must enable refuelling and cleaning without the spillage or leakage of fuel. Oil must not leak from the machine during normal cleaning and the engine shall be designed to enable oil changing without spillage.
6. Plastic components weighing more than 50 g must be marked according to ISO 11469 or equivalent. Electrical cables are not subject to this requirement.
7. Plastic materials must not contain cadmium, lead, mercury or compounds of these.
8. Surface treatment agents must not contain pigments or additives based on lead, cadmium, chromium, mercury or their compounds.

**Verification (for specifications 5, 6, 7 & 8):**

Bidders must provide a declaration of compliance. Machines carrying a type I ecolabel meeting the above requirements will be deemed to comply.

**Award criteria**

Additional points will be awarded for:

**1. Noise emissions**

Machines with lower noise emissions than the maximum included in the specifications.

**Verification:**

Bidders must present the laboratory test results, or an appropriate technical dossier indicating noise emission values according to the test methods outlined in the specifications or equivalent.

**2. Exhaust gas emissions**

Machines with exhaust gas emissions lower than those required by Directive 97/68/EC. The exhaust gas emission test of the machine shall be done in accordance with the general standard specified in EU Directive 97/68/EC and by a testing laboratory qualified under the same Directive.

**Verification:**

Bidders must present the laboratory test results or an appropriate technical dossier.

### 3.4.c) Gardening machinery - Explanatory notes

- **Exhaust gas emission levels:** Annex I of the [Background Product Report](#) on Gardening products and services contains the current exhaust gas emission limits set by Directive 97/68/EC.
- **Award criteria:** Contracting authorities will have to indicate in the contract notice and tender documents how many additional points will be awarded for each award criterion. Environmental award criteria should, altogether, account for at least 10 to 15 % of the total points available. Where the award criterion is formulated in terms of “better performance as compared to the minimum requirements included in the technical specifications”, points will be awarded in proportion to the improved performance.

## 3.5 Machinery lubricant oils (except 4-stroke engine lubricants)

### 3.5.a) Machinery lubricant oils (except 4-stroke engine lubricants) - core criteria

#### Subject matter

Purchase of readily biodegradable lubricants.

#### Specifications

##### **Renewable raw materials**

1. The formulated product shall have a carbon content derived from renewable raw materials (derived from vegetal oils or animal fats) that shall be equal or bigger than:
  - 50 % (m/m) for hydraulic oils
  - 45 % (m/m) for greases
  - 70 % (m/m) for chainsaw oils and other total loss lubricants
  - 50 % (m/m) for two-stroke oils

##### **Verification:**

Bidders must provide the detailed composition of the product, the origin of renewable raw materials and a declaration of compliance with the above requirement. Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply.

##### **Environmental and human health hazards**

2. The product shall not have been assigned any R-phrases indicating environmental and human health hazards according to Directive 1999/45/EC. The following R-phrases are considered relevant for this product group:  
R 20, R 21, R 22, R 23, R 24, R 25, R 26, R 27, R 28, R 33, R 34, R 35, R 36, R 37, R 38, R 39, R 40, R 41, R 42, R 43, R 45, R 46, R 48, R 49, R 50, R 51, R 52, R 53, R 59, R 60, R 61, R 62, R 63, R 64, R 65, R 66, R 67, R 68, and combinations thereof.

##### **Verification:**

Products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Alternatively bidders must present: a list of all the main components (any substance accounting for more than 5 % by weight of the lubricant) included in the product, giving their names and where applicable, their Einecs or Elincs number and the concentrations in which they are used; the product safety data sheet (meeting the requirements of Commission Directive 91/155/EEC); and the safety data sheets of each main component (meeting the requirements of Directive 91/155/EEC and Council Directive 67/548/EEC).

### 3.5.b) Machinery lubricant oils (except 4-stroke engine lubricants) - Comprehensive GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Purchase of readily biodegradable lubricants.

#### Specifications

##### **Renewable raw materials**

1. The Ecological requirements for the EU Ecolabel for lubricants must be met (full criteria documents available at [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/L\\_118/L\\_11820050505en00260034.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/L_118/L_11820050505en00260034.pdf)).

##### **Verification:**

The EU Ecolabel will be accepted as proof of compliance, as will any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.

### 3.5.c) Machinery lubricant oils (except 4-stroke engine lubricants) - Explanatory notes

- **Ecolabel criteria:** It is possible to indicate that the criteria underlying a certain ecolabel are met, as long as the criteria are eligible for defining the product, and other forms of compliance verification besides the ecolabel are also accepted.
- **Inserting full criteria:** Some contracting authorities may prefer to insert the complete criteria set rather than simply refer to the EU Ecolabel. The complete criteria set is included in Annex III of the [Background Product Report](#) on Gardening products and services and can be obtained online at the EUROPA GPP website.

3.6

### Gardening vehicles (passenger and light-duty vehicles) - Core and Comprehensive GPP criteria

(See [Background Product Report](#) and [Product Sheet](#) for transport).

3.7

### Gardening staff uniforms - Core and Comprehensive GPP criteria

(See [Background Product Report](#) and [Product Sheet](#) for textile products).

## 4 Gardening services – GPP criteria

### 4.1 Gardening services - Core GPP criteria

#### Subject matter

Gardening services using environmentally friendly products and practices.

#### Specifications

##### **Fertilisation with soil improvers**

1. The soil improvers to be used in carrying out the service must comply with the following criteria:  
(Insert Core criteria relating to the purchase of soil improvers, [section 3.1.](#)).

##### **Verification:**

Bidders must present a list with the products to be used in carrying out the service (manufacturer and commercial name). If the products are certified with the European Ecolabel they will be deemed to comply. If not, bidders must provide the documentation mentioned with the specifications for each product they propose.

##### **New ornamental plants**

2. [If they are to be provided by the contractor] The new ornamental plants to be planted in carrying out the service must comply with the following criteria:  
(Insert Core criteria relating to the purchase of ornamental plants, [section 3.2.](#)).

##### **Verification:**

Bidders must present all the documentation mentioned with the specifications corresponding to the nursery or nurseries from which they will buy the plants.

##### **Machinery**

3. Bidders must have shredders to treat woody organic waste and transform it into mulch.

## Contract performance clauses

### 1. Lubricants

The lubricant oils to be used in the machinery in carrying out the service must be biodegradable and non-toxic. Therefore the lubricants must comply with the following criteria:

*(Insert Core criteria relating to the purchase of lubricant oils, [section 3.5](#).)*

#### **Verification:**

Bidders must present a list of the lubricants to be used in carrying out the service (manufacturer and commercial name). If the products are certified with the EU ecolabel they will be deemed to comply. If not, bidders must provide all the documentation mentioned with the specifications for each product.

### 2. Service vehicles

The vehicles to be used in carrying out the service shall at a minimum fulfil the exhaust emission requirements of EURO 4 or or IV

#### **Verification:**

Bidders must provide a list of the vehicles to be used in carrying out the service and the respective technical sheets of these vehicles where emission levels are stated.

### 3. Watering practices

At the beginning of the contract, the contractor must set an operational plan for watering and water use which must contain the following aspects:

- Maximise the use of non-potable water (from rain, phreatic water or reused water) for watering practices. The water collection points will be indicated to the contractor.
- The application of mulching to avoid evaporation in the areas agreed by the contracting authority.
- The installation of automatic irrigation systems as required, complying with the following criteria:

*(Insert proposed criteria for the purchase of irrigation systems, [section 3.3](#).)*

## Contract performance clauses

### 4. Waste management

- Waste produced during the carrying out of gardening services must be collected separately as follows:
  - ▬ All organic waste (dry leaves, pruning, grass...) must be composted "in-situ", in the company facilities or by contracting out this practice to a waste treatment enterprise.
  - ▬ Woody organic waste from branches, etc. must be shredded "in-situ" or in the company facilities and used as mulching in the agreed areas.
  - ▬ Packaging waste must be separated into the existing urban waste fractions and placed into the corresponding street containers (paper, plastic, etc.). However, packaging waste of dangerous substances, such as plant protection products, must be disposed of safely in approved collection points or through an authorised waste manager for further treatment.
  - ▬ Motor oils must be collected and treated by an authorised waste management company.
- When a gardening machine is irreparably broken, the contractor will have to indicate the final destination of the machine.

### 5. Staff training

- The gardening staff must be trained on environmentally friendly gardening practices to be applied in carrying out the service. This should include topics such as water and energy saving practices; waste minimisation, management and selective collection, use of products based on renewable raw materials; chemical product and container handling and management; etc. The contractor must present a training plan once the contract is awarded and, at the end of the contract, a certificate stating the training given to both new and permanent staff.

### 6. Periodical report

- The contractor must provide, on a yearly basis, a report containing information on the fuel consumed in carrying out the service, the names and quantities of fertilisers, plant protection products and lubricant oils used, the amount of waste generated by fraction and destination and information on all other actions to execute the services as defined in the contract (measures to reduce water consumption, to reduce packaging, etc.).

## Gardening services - Comprehensive GPP criteria

### Subject matter

Gardening services using environmentally friendly products and practices.

### Selection criteria (optional)

- Bidders must prove their technical and professional capacity to perform the environmental aspects of the contract through:
  - an environmental management system (EMS) for gardening services (such as EMAS, ISO 14001, [insert other national or regional official systems]), **or**
  - an environmental policy for the operations and work instructions and procedures for carrying out the service in an environmentally friendly way, **or**
  - previous experience in applying environmental management measures in similar contracts.

#### Verification:

Where bidders have an EMS for gardening services they must provide the certificate of the scheme and the procedures in place.

If not certified, bidders must provide the written instructions and procedures which demonstrate their professional capacity.

If bidders have experience in similar contracts, they must submit evidence of their previous contracts or a detailed report of the environmental management measures carried out in previous service contracts with the contact details of the relevant contracting authorities.

### Specifications

#### **Fertilisation with soil improvers**

- The soil improvers to be used in carrying out the service must comply with the following criteria:  
(Insert Comprehensive criteria relating to the purchase of soil improvers, [section 3.1.](#)).

#### Verification:

Bidders must present a list with the products to be used in carrying out the service (manufacturer and commercial name). If the products are certified with the EU Ecolabel they will be deemed to comply. If not, bidders must provide the documentation mentioned with the specifications for each product they propose.

#### **Pest control**

- Bidders must demonstrate their commitment to reducing the use of chemical plant protection products by applying alternative techniques (such as thermal, mechanical or biological treatments).

#### Verification:

Bidders must present a report with the measures to be applied in each circumstance and for the main plant diseases in order to control pests with the minimal use of chemical plant protection products.

#### **New ornamental plants**

- [If they are to be provided by the contractor] The new ornamental plants to be planted in carrying out the service must comply with the following criteria:  
(Insert Comprehensive criteria relating to the purchase of ornamental plants, [section 3.2.](#)).

#### Verification:

Bidders must present all the documentation mentioned with the specifications corresponding to the nursery or nurseries from which they will buy the plants.

#### **Machinery**

- Bidders must have shredders to treat woody organic waste and transform it into mulch.

## Award criteria

Additional points will be awarded for:

### **New ornamental plants**

1. **Organic production:** Bidders must indicate the percentage of ornamental plants to be used in carrying out the service that will be organically produced according to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

#### **Verification:**

Bidders must indicate the percentage of organic ornamental plants that they will provide in carrying out the service. At the end of each year, the contractor must provide a list of all new plants used, their price, and (where relevant) proof of organic origin.

## Contract performance clauses

### **1. Lubricants**

The lubricant oils to be used in the machinery in carrying out the service must be biodegradable and non-toxic. Therefore the lubricants must comply with the following criteria:

*(Insert Comprehensive criteria relating to the purchase of lubricant oils, [section 3.9](#)).*

#### **Verification:**

Bidders must present a list of the lubricants to be used in carrying out the service (manufacturer and commercial name). If the products are certified with the EU Ecolabel they will be deemed to comply. If not, bidders must provide all the documentation mentioned with the specifications for each product.

### **2. Service vehicles**

The vehicles to be used in carrying out the service shall at a minimum fulfil the exhaust emission requirements of EURO 5 or V.

#### **Verification:**

Bidders must provide a list of the vehicles to be used in carrying out the service and the respective technical sheets of these vehicles where emissions levels are stated.

### **3. Watering practices**

At the beginning of the contract, the contractor must set an operational plan for watering and water use which must contain the following aspects:

- Maximise the use of non-potable water (from rain, phreatic water or reused water) for watering practices. The water collection points will be indicated to the contractor.
- The application of mulching to avoid evaporation in the areas agreed by the contracting authority.
- The installation of automatic irrigation systems as required, complying with the following criteria:  
*(Insert proposed criteria for the purchase of irrigation systems, [section 3.5](#)).*
- The contractor will have to carry out water requirement studies for each green area to define the amount of water needed, to be presented within one month of the start of the contract.
- When new plants need to be planted, the contractor will propose the arrangement of plants according to their water necessities, unless this has been previously decided.

## Contract performance clauses

### 4. Waste management

- Waste produced during the carrying out of gardening services must be collected separately as follows:
  - All organic waste (dry leaves, pruning, grass...) must be composted "in-situ", in the company facilities or by contracting out this practice to a waste treatment enterprise.
  - Woody organic waste from branches, etc. must be shredded "in-situ" or in the company facilities and used as mulching in the agreed areas.
  - Packaging waste must be separated into the existing urban waste fractions and placed into the corresponding street containers (paper, plastic, etc.). However, packaging waste of dangerous substances, such as plant protection products, must be disposed of safely in approved collection points or through an authorised waste manager for further treatment.
  - Motor oils must be collected and treated by an authorised waste management company.
- When a gardening machine is irreparably broken, the contractor will have to indicate the final destination of the machine.

### 5. Staff training

- The gardening staff must be trained on environmentally friendly gardening practices to be applied in carrying out the service. This should include subjects such as water and energy saving practices; waste minimisation, management and selective collection; chemical product and container handling and management; etc. The contractor must present a training plan once the contract is awarded and, at the end of the contract, a certificate stating the training given to both new and permanent staff.

### 6. Service management [if selection criteria are not included]

- The contractor shall endeavour to ensure that, where possible, gardening activities are carried out in a manner that minimises adverse environmental impacts. Therefore within the first 6 months of the contract, the contractor will have structured and documented environmental procedures for at least the following areas:
  - Evaluation of the operation's most significant environmental aspects.
  - Waste minimisation and selective collection.
  - Reduction of water and energy consumption, also in transport.
  - Training.

### 7. Periodical report

- The contractor must provide, on a yearly basis, a report containing information on the fuel consumed in carrying out the service, the names and quantities of fertilisers, plant protection products and lubricant oils used, the amount of waste generated by fraction and destination and information on all other actions to execute the services as defined in the contract (measures to reduce water consumption, to reduce packaging, etc.).

### 8. Staff uniforms

The staff uniforms comply with the following specifications:  
(use Core or Comprehensive criteria from the Textiles Product Sheet).

## 4.3 Gardening services - Explanatory notes

### Explanatory notes

- **Staff training:** Not directly related to environmental criteria but also relevant from a health point of view, staff training should also include aspects on health protection against noise, dust, manipulation of chemical substances, etc.
- **% of organically produced ornamental plants:** The contracting authority will have to specify how the percentage will be judged, either in volume, weight, or spent

## 5 Relevant European legislation and information sources

Although there are no specific directives or regulations for gardening, there are some related to products (fertilisers, biocides) and machinery used in gardening.

For plant protection products, the European Union has established several Directives: **Directive 91/414/EEC** of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products (PPPs) on the market (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/1991/L/01991L0414-20030605-en.pdf>) ; **Directive 79/117/EEC** of 21 December 1978 prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances; (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/1979/L/01979L0117-19860101-en.pdf>) and **Directive 76/769/EEC** of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations. (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/1976/L/01976L0769-20010718-en.pdf>). They lay down uniform rules on the evaluation, authorisation, placing on the market and control within the European Union of plant protection products and the active substances they contain.

For mineral fertilisers there is also EU Regulation **No 2003/2003** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 (as amended). It defines in particular, the provisions relating to the placing of fertilisers on the market, i.e. the conditions for designating “EC fertilisers,” as well as provisions on their labelling and packaging (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/2003/R/02003R2003-20070312-en.pdf>). The European Union is thus simplifying Community legislation on the harmonisation of Member States’ legislation in the field of fertilisers by bringing all the existing provisions in this field under one instrument. The objective is to ensure the free movement of these products within the European Union.

For plant and tree cultivation, Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products shall apply. ([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/L\\_189/L\\_18920070720en00010023.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/L_189/L_18920070720en00010023.pdf)).

Finally, for machinery, it is important to mention two directives:

**Directive 2000/14/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors. ([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&numdoc=32000L0014&model=guichett&lg=en](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&numdoc=32000L0014&model=guichett&lg=en)). The aim of the Directive is to promote the smooth functioning of the internal market and to improve the health and well being of the population by reducing the noise emitted by the equipment used outdoors.

**Directive 97/68/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1997 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery.

## 6 Information sources

### Ecolabels

- Commission Decision of 3 November 2006 establishing revised ecological criteria and the related assessment and verification requirements for the award of the Community ecolabel to soil improvers: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l\\_325/l\\_32520061124en00280034.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_325/l_32520061124en00280034.pdf)
- Commission Decision of 26 April 2005 establishing ecological criteria and the related assessment and verification requirements for the award of the Community ecolabel to lubricants: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_118/l\\_11820050505en00260034.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_118/l_11820050505en00260034.pdf)
- Blue Angel: Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label for Low-Noise Garden Shredders. RAL-UZ 54. February 2007: [http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download\\_uz\\_e/e-UZ-054.pdf](http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download_uz_e/e-UZ-054.pdf)
- Blue Angel: Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label for Compostable Plant Containers and Other Moduled Parts RAL-UZ 17. April 2004: [http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download\\_uz\\_e/e-UZ-017.PDF](http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download_uz_e/e-UZ-017.PDF)
- Blue Angel: Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label Readily Biodegradable Lubricants and Forming Oils RAL-UZ 64. April 2007: [http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download\\_uz\\_e/e-UZ-064.zip](http://www.blauer-engel.de/englisch/vergabe/download_uz_e/e-UZ-064.zip)
- Nordic Swan criteria. Swan labelling of working machines for park and garden. Version 1.2. 15 March 2002 – 31 March 2008: <http://www.svanen.nu/SISMABDesktopDefault.aspx?tabName=CriteriaDetailEng&menuItemID=7056&pgr=40>
- Nordic Swan criteria. Swan labelling of Lubricants. Criteria Document 6 October 2000 – 30 June 2011: <http://www.svanen.nu/SISMABDesktopDefault.aspx?tabName=CriteriaDetailEng&menuItemID=7056&pgr=2>
- Référentiel de certification. Lubrifiants pour chaînes de tronçonneuse. Octobre 2005: <http://www.marque-nf.com/resultatrecherche.asp?Critere=TypeDeMarque&Valeur=Marque%20NF%20Environnement>
- Österreichisches Umweltzeichen. Richtlinie UZ 32. Torffreie Kultursubstrate und Bodenverbesserer mit biogenen Reststoffen. Juli 2007: <http://www.umweltzeichen.at/filemanager/list/15672>

- Österreichisches Umweltzeichen Richtlinie UZ 48. Motorbetriebene Gartengeräte. Juli 2002: <http://www.umweltzeichen.at/filemanager/list/15672>
- Österreichisches Umweltzeichen. Richtlinie UZ 52. Pflanzenpflege- und Pflanzenschutzprodukte. Juli 2005: <http://www.umweltzeichen.at/filemanager/list/15672>
- Stichting Milieukeur. Dutch ecolabel for soil quality, ornamental organic plants and soil improvers: <http://www.milieukeur.nl/>

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