

Metal availability in technosols prepared with composted sewage sludge and limestone outcrop affected by the presence of barley

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The use of composted sewage sludge (SSC), and limestone outcrop residue (LOR), is a common practice in soil and land rehabilitation, technosol making, and quarry restoration (Jordán et al. 2008). Both wastes are used to improve the physical, chemical, and biological properties of impoverished soils (Karaca 2004; Jordão et al. 2006; Lovieno et al. 2009). However, the use of compost may have some negative effects on the environment (Navarro-Pedreño et al. 2004; Elridge et al. 2009). Moreover, plants cultivated in technosols can produce changes on the availability of essential and harmful metals and, for this reason, it is necessary to make studies to evaluate the availability of metals and the effect of plants in their mobility and toxicity.

In this experiment, it has been analyzed the effect of barley in metals availability in four technosols prepared mixing volumes of LOR (100, 98, 95 and 90 %) and SSC (0, 2, 5 and 10%). To determine the solubility and availability, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Ni, Pb and Zn were measured by Lindsay-Norvell extraction procedure.

For each technosoil, tree pots with barley (three plants) and three without barley were checked after 3 months. A of them were irrigated with 1.5 L/week of tap water.

At the end of this time, the metal solubility and availability were higher in soils with the presence of barley than the others. This was especially notorious for Fe and Zn. The presence of root exudates and the reduction of lixiviation due to plant transpiration can explain the highest presence of metals. This result may be considered in rhizosphere related to possible metal toxicity.

Keywords: compost, limestone outcrop residues, heavy metals, barley.

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