

Compost Bags Cut Disposal Costs

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Bags made of a new biodegradable polymer are being used for the first time in North America to collect grass clippings and other yard materials.

The new bags are being composted along with leaves and grass clippings as part of a program that demonstrates how a community can dramatically reduce disposal costs while preventing more than 500 tons of organic materials from being landfilled or incinerated every year.

These new bags are made

from Novon (R) polymer grade M4900, which is based on starch from corn and potatoes and other materials that biodegrade completely such as paper, leaves, and wood chips during the production and end-use of compost. Bags made from Novon polymer combine all of the benefits and convenience of plastic bags with the compostability of paper bags. They are designed to be used for community yard trimming collection programs.

Novon Products Group produces Novon specialty polymers

for use in the production of bags as well as other applications. As an example, Bio Bags & Film Company, Inc., of Clifton, N.J., an affiliate of Andmar Plastic Company, used Novon polymer M4900 to make compost bags for the community of Haddonfield, N.J.

The Novon compost bags are water-resistant, flexible, stretchable, lightweight, and thin. Because they are translucent, it is easy to identify contents to assure compliance with the program, which accepts

only grass clippings, leaves, plants, brush, and weeds.

Novon Products Group, Morris Plains, N.J., a division of Warner-Lambert Company,

manufactures and markets Novon specialty polymers, a blend of starches and other completely biodegradable materials.

Troop Attends Leadership Program

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — H. Grant Troop of Quarryville was one of 23 corn grower-leaders from across the nation who participated in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Leadership Development Program, sponsored by Ciba Plant Protection.

Participants gathered in Greensboro, N.C., for four days of hands-on workshops. Topics included parliamentary procedure, communicating with different personality styles, getting key messages across through the news media, and current NCGA issues such as the North American Free

Trade Agreement and legislation affecting ethanol.

"Agriculture is a complex, dynamic industry. It's becoming even more important to tell our story to the general public and to decision makers in a clear, concise manner. This program strengthens our communications and leadership skills," said NCGA President-Elect Pete Wenstrand, a graduate of the program and farmer from Essex, Iowa.

More than 200 farmers have graduated from the program, including 12 members of the NCGA and National Corn Development Foundation executive committees.

Participants will also travel to Washington, D.C., next March to put their skills to work. Among other activities, they will visit with members of Congress about issues important to corn farmers. This is the ninth annual leadership development class. Ciba has been the program sponsor since its inception.

"The success of any organization — business or volunteer — depends on leadership," said E.J. Bontempo, president of Ciba Plant Protection. "By being involved in NCGA, these leaders serve all of agriculture."



Consumers have an easier, and less messy, time collecting their leaf and grass clippings for municipal composting with new Novon (R)-based biodegradable compost bags. The bags perform like plastic but completely biodegrade like paper, without the common problems of rips and tears.

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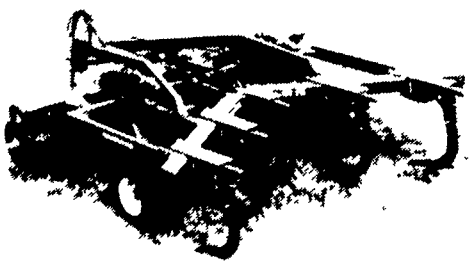
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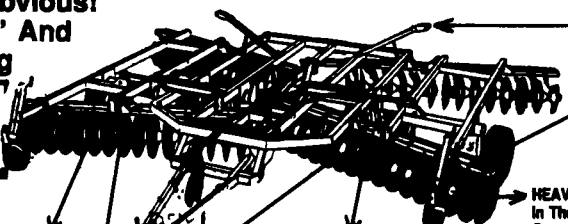
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