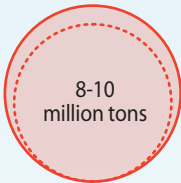


Use of plastic in agriculture per year



INTENTIONAL

The agricultural sector intentionally releases approx. 23 500 tons of microplastics per year from the use of slow release fertiliser, fertiliser additives, plastic covered seeds and encapsulated pesticides.

End of use

e.g. burnt or left to breakdown

Wind-tunnels, green-houses and silage film

Plastic mulch approx. 4 million tons

Plastic film and mulch to cover soil and crops

Discarded after use

Microplastics in soil run-off

UNINTENTIONAL

Biosolids

Biosolids containing microplastics and fibres are used as fertilisers on agriculture fields. Most microplastics are likely exported to the aquatic environment while fibres are retained in the soil.

Wastewater

Wastewater treatment plants are a major source of microplastics, nanoplastics and synthetic microfibrils. Biosolids from wastewater treatment contains large amount of these.

Yield reduction

Plant growth is affected by residual plastic in the soil.