

# QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

June 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2008

**PROJECT TITLE:** Chemical Characteristics of Yard Waste in Florida

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**COMPLETION DATE:** 2/28/2009 **PHONE:** 352-392-1951 x208

## OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this study is to determine the characteristics of yard trash including mulch and compost. The specific objectives are:

- Collect representative sample in Florida
- Characterize the waste chemically and physically including selected 503 metals and organic contaminants
- Evaluate the potential adverse impact on environment

## WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS PERIOD

1. Collected 2 samples from NW district bringing total samples collected to 88.
2. Air dried and ground last batch of 34 samples.
3. Determined pH of ground samples.
4. Digested all 88 collected samples with  $\text{HNO}_3/\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in a Hot Block Digester using USEPA Method 3050a.
5. USEPA approved Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) plan involving spikes, duplicates, blanks and certified reference materials was followed.
6. Determined digested samples for As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Mo, Ni, Se and Zn using an Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission (ICP-OE).
7. Analyzed data and drafted a manuscript titled “Chemical characteristics of compost and mulch from yard trash in Florida”

## WORK TO DO IN NEXT SIX MONTHS

1. Finish analyzing organic contaminants in yard trash samples;
2. Finish data analysis on metal concentrations in yard trash and finish the manuscript.
3. Finish the annual report for the project.