



VacuBioNet

Explanatory Note

For the first time the VacuBioNet is now available for use in quantity. Hole Park is proud to be amongst the first Christmas tree growers extensively using VacuBioNet this year.

VacuBioNet is entirely derived from plant based starch polylactic acid, PLA, and not petrochemicals, typically from corn, sugar cane and sugar beet pulp. You may be amused to know that there is the distinct smell of 'popcorn' associated with the pallets of VacuBioNet in our store.

It is claimed that it requires 65% less energy and emits 75% less harmful greenhouse gasses than the production of petroleum-based plastics which it is designed to replace. PLA will naturally break down by hydrolysis, thermal and photo-degradation, returning to the earth. The caveat here though is that some recycling and composting facilities may not yet be able currently to accept this type of tree netting.

As it is plant based and compostable, it has a reduced shelf life, which would currently appear to be around 24 months. So please do not order too much at any one time. We will be happy to take back for credit unused and unopened netting returned to us.

There are rival products on the market, but none so successful or advanced as VacuBioNet. Please proceed with caution. Considerable concern surrounds 'OXO Degradable' netting, whose essential features are that it is manufactured from petrochemicals which contain added metal salts to speed its degradation into small-chain polymer micro-plastics. Essentially 1000 years of degradation is sped up into a few years. It is still plastic in small platelets. DEFRA and Loughborough University conclude that *"incorporation of additives into petroleum-based plastics that cause those plastics to undergo accelerated degradation does not improve their environmental impact and potentially gives rise to certain negative effects"*. <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e2476c5a-aa47-4f17-91f5-84655d08d042#pageNum=1>

It is a complex situation, and one thing is clear; neither these nor other products are yet perfect, but we are doing our part and proud to be using VacuBioNet this year. We hope that you can use this as a marketing tool yourself.

Overleaf is an infographic courtesy of Biobagworld explaining the difference between compostable products, of which VacuBioNet is one, OXO degradable products and ordinary plastics.

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

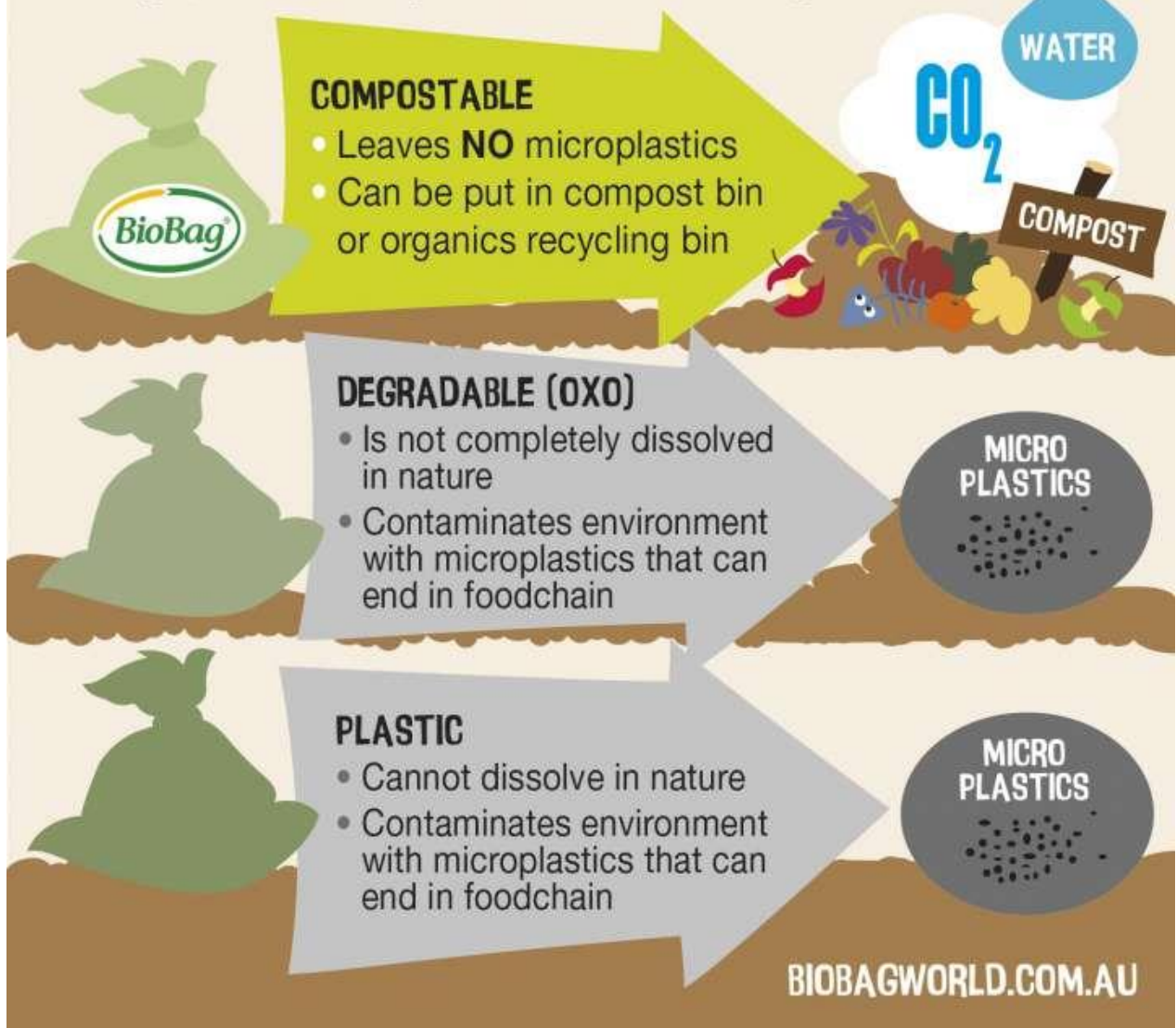


Photo credit: biobagworld.com