CocoVeneer – By-products

Potential by-products from coconut wood harvesting and processing residues

Content

- Source and volume of residues
- Residues as growing medium
- Residues for biochar
- Residues as fuel.

Objective 6 – By-products

Coconut palm harvesting residues

- Palm harvested for peeling trials (Savusavu, Vanua Levu. Fiji. 2015)

Objective 6 – By-products

Coconut log processing residues

(Labasa, Vanua Levu. Fiji. 2014)

Objective 6 – By-product utilisation

Potential coconut palm by-products

- *6.1* Growing mediums
- *6.1* Compost
- *6.2* Biochars
- *6.2* Fuelwood

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

6.1 Growing mediums

Physical analysis of fine ground cocowood medium compared with coir media

Parameter	Cocowood (fine-ground)	Coir 1*	Coir 2*	Recommended range (Bodman and Sharman, 1993)
Air filled porosity	34.18%	16%	35%	5-20%
Water holding capacity	44.41%	35%	64%	>40%
Water retention efficiency	61.33%	46%	63%	No data
Wettability	55 seconds	<5 seconds	15 seconds	No data
Bulk density	0.09 (g/vol)	0.07	0.08	<1.2
pH	6.22	5.84	6.4	4.7-7
Electrical conductivity	1727µS/cm	629	2254 µS/cm	<700- 1800

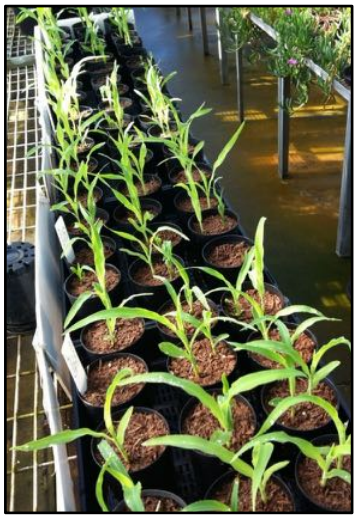
*source: Poulter *et al*., 2009

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

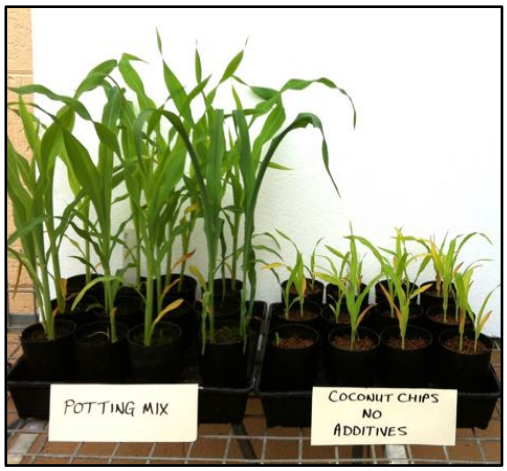
Good mycellium growth through the substrate

Successful mushroom production, but poor yields

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums



Plant growth trials were established to compare germination and growth rates of sweet corn



6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

Test Required: / Australian Standard Applicable:		Sample 1 240393-Coconut Wood Chips CA-PACK-007 Premium AS 3743/2003	*Requirment* AS 3743/2003	*Status*
Nutrient	Units	E3286/1	*Potting Mix*	
Air-filled Porosity	%	25	*≥13*	*Pass*
Total Water Holding Capacity	%	42	*≥50*	*Fail*
Wettability	min	1m 20s	*≤2*	*Pass*
pH (1:1.5)	pH units	6.1	*5.3 - 6.5*	*Pass*
Electrical Conductivity (1:1.5)	dS/m	5.4	*≤2.2*	*Fail*
Chloride	Cl mg/L	162	*≤200*	*Pass*
Ammonium	N mg/L	2.75	*≤100*	*Pass*
Phosphorus	P mg/L	14	*8 to 40*	*Pass*
Potassium	K mg/L	55	*≥30*	*Pass*
Sulfur	S mg/L	8	*≥40*	*Fail*
Calcium	Ca mg/L	28	*≥80*	*Fail*
Magnesium	Mg mg/L	25	*≥15*	*Pass*
Ca:Mg Ratio	Ratio	1.1	*1.5 to 10*	*Pass*
K:Mg Ratio	Ratio	2.2	*1 to 7*	*Pass*
Sodium	Na mg/L	511	*≤130*	*Fail*
Copper	Cu mg/L	0.1	*0.4 to 15*	*Fail*
Zinc	Zn mg/L	1.0	*0.3 to 10*	*Pass*
Manganese	Mn mg/L	1.0	*1 to 15*	*Pass*
Boron	B mg/L	0.07	*0.02 to 0.65*	*Pass*

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

6.1
Compost

CSAW has trial composted coconut woodchip on a garden-scale to examine end-product properties.

12 weeks

Advanced veneer and other product from coconut wood

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

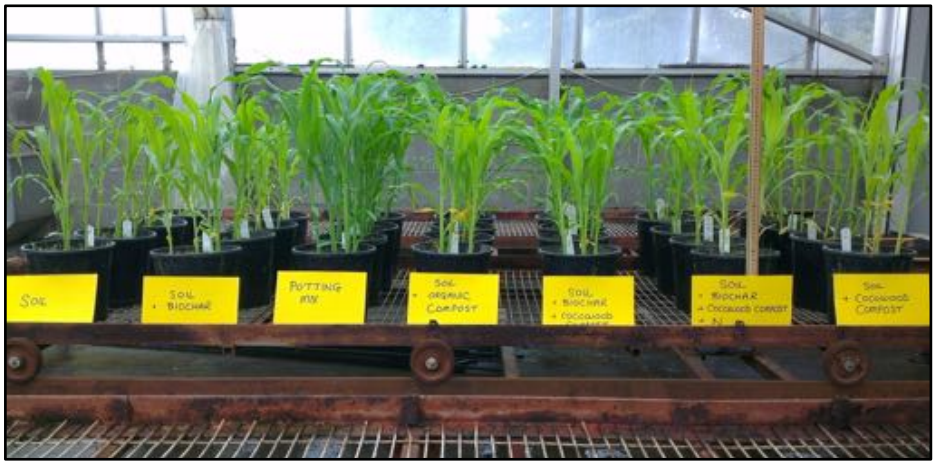
Test Required: / Australian Standard Applicable:			Sample 1 241254 Cocowood compost CA-PACK-006 Premium AS3743/2003	*Requirment* AS3743/2003	*Status*
Nutrient		Units	E3286/1	*Potting Mix*	
Air-filled Porosity		%	NA		
Total Water Holding Capacity		%	NA		
Wettability		min	NA		
pH (1:1.5)		pH units	7.3	*5.3 - 6.5*	*Fail*
Electrical Conductivity (1:1.5)		dS/m	**2.8**	*≤2.2*	*Fail*
Chloride	Cl	mg/L	97	*≤200*	*Pass*
Ammonium	N	mg/L	1.80	*≤100*	*Pass*
Phosphorus	P	mg/L	78	*8 to 40*	*Fail*
Potassium	K	mg/L	280	*≥30*	*Pass*
Sulfur	S	mg/L	36	*≥40*	*Fail*
Calcium	Ca	mg/L	14	*≥80*	*Fail*
Magnesium	Mg	mg/L	9.8	*≥15*	*Fail*
Ca:Mg Ratio		Ratio	1.4	*1.5 to 10*	*Pass*
K:Mg Ratio		Ratio	28.6	*1 to 7*	*Fail*
Sodium	Na	mg/L	**245**	*≤130*	*Fail*
Copper	Cu	mg/L	0.4	*0.4 to 15*	*Pass*
Zinc	Zn	mg/L	0.4	*0.3 to 10*	*Pass*
Manganese	Mn	mg/L	0.2	*1 to 15*	*Fail*
Boron	B	mg/L	0.6	*0.02 to 0.65*	*Pass*

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

Composting coconut palm log harvest residues could be particularly useful for most site rehabilitation options

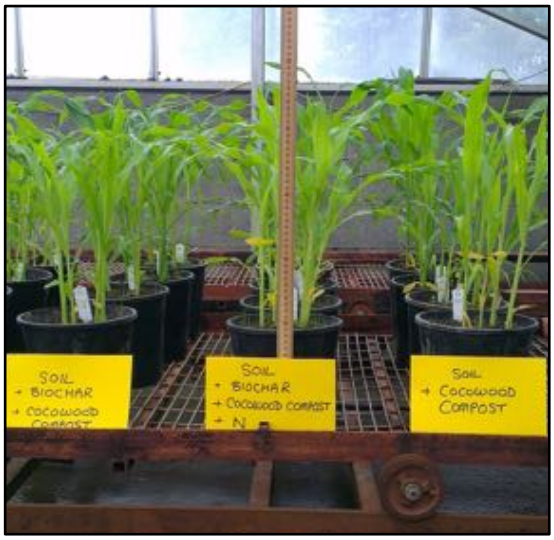
Advanced veneer and other product from coconut wood

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums



A second series of plant growth trials were established to again compare germination and growth rates of sweet corn - (Monocotyledon)

6.1 By-products – Growing mediums

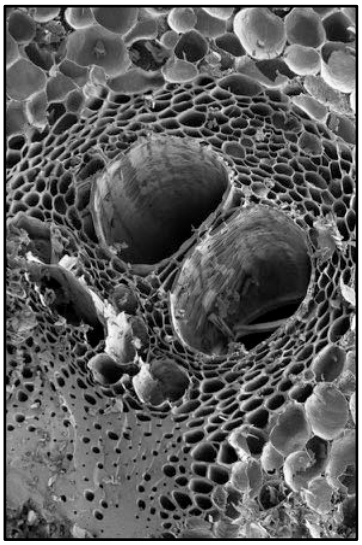


Advanced veneer and other product from coconut wood

6.2 By-products – Biochars

6.2
Biochars

Biochars from the pyrolysis of coconut wood



6.2 By-products – Biochars

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No statistically significant differences in mean corm weight between biochar treatments.

No consistent effects of initial feedstock, pyrolysis temperature, rate of biochar and priming.

6.2 By-products – Fuelwood

Table 3. A comparison of the energy content of various fuel types used across the South Pacific Islands (derived from Mario, R. 2000)

Fuel	Gigajoules per Tonne
Automotive Gasoline or Diesel	46
Liquid Petroleum Gas	49.4
Coconut Oil	38.4
Charcoal	30.0
Wood waste @ 40 % moisture content	10.8
Wood waste @ 12 % moisture content	17.1
Coconut palm wood	11.5
Coconut shell and husk	14.0
Sugar bagasse	9.7

6.2 By-products – Fuelwood

6.2 By-products – Fuelwood

For a jet-box veneer dryer processing approx. 75,000 cubic metres of veneer a year. A 20 MW biomass heat-plant requires approx. 30,000 tonnes wood residue.

6.2 By-products – In summary

- Coconut estate renewal and wood processing will generate significant residue volumes.
- Chipped coconut can be used as a base growing medium but alternatives have superior performance.
- Composted coconut appears to be performing very well against alternatives.
- Biochar trial was conducted but inconclusive.
- Increasing applications can exist for coconut fuelwood.

Composting and fuelwood can use high volumes of material.

Objective 6 By-products – Questions