

cations (the frequency depending upon soil type, crops grown, and level of annual amendments). Therefore, over long-term use, we propose that polypropylene landscape fabric may be considered as a potential alternative to polyethylene film for commercial production of some vegetable crops.

The multiple benefits of compost suggest it as a preferred mulch. For no- and low-till systems, compost applied as mulch provides both soil enhancement and weed suppression. It may also have a role in delaying the impact of pests (e.g., aphids). The absence of mulch leads to greater soil water loss (and thus greater need for irrigation), increased weed competition and, therefore, increased weeding labor.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16-21, 2001, "Managing Change in the 21st Century," the annual meeting of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, will be held in Orlando, FL; contact NAICC, 1055 Petersburg Cove, Collierville, TN 38017; (901) 861-0511; e-mail JonesNAICC@aol.com.

January 19-21, 2001, 10th annual conference of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group will be held in Chattanooga, TN; contact Toni McLaughlin, (225) 654-2017; e-mail tomihawk@intersurf.com; on the Internet, www.attra.org/ssawg/.

January 24-27, 2001, 21st Annual Ecological Farming Conference will be held in Pacific Grove, CA; contact Ecological Farming Association, 406 Main St., #313, Watsonville, CA 95076; (831) 763-2111.

February 15-18, 2001, "Bio Fach 2001," the World Organic Trade Fair, will be held in Nuremberg, Germany; contact NurnbergMesse GmbH, Messezentrum,

D-90471 Nurnberg; phone 49-0-9-1186-06-0; e-mail info@nuernbergmesse.de; on the Internet, www.nuernbergmesse.de.

February 22-24, 2001, Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show will be held in Virginia Beach, VA; information is available on the Internet at www.madmc.com.

March 1, 2001, is the deadline for submission of abstracts for a workshop on the successes of the Section 319 National Monitoring Program and other nonpoint source programs, sponsored by the Conservation Technology Information Center; for information, contact CTIC, 1220 Potter Drive, #170, West Lafayette, IN 47906; e-mail ctic@ctic.purdue.edu.

March 5-7, 2001, "How to Expand Composting/Recycling Programs," BioCycle's West Coast Conference, will be held in Portland, OR; contact BioCycle, 419 State Ave., Emmaus, PA 18049; (610) 967-4135; on the Internet, www.biocycle.net.

May 17-19, 2001, "All Things Organic," the Organic Trade Association's Conference and Trade Show, will be held in Austin, TX; contact OTA, P.O. Box 547, Greenfield, MA 01302; (413) 774-7511; e-mail otashow@ota.com; on the Internet, www.ota.com.

May 22-24, 2001, "Consumer Concerns About Biotechnology in Our Food System: Past, Present, and Future," the annual conference of the National Agricultural Biotechnology Council, will be held in Chicago, IL; contact NABC, 1101 West Peabody, Room 168, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 244-1706; e-mail nsrl@uiuc.edu.

July 12-14, 2001, "Higher Education and Research for Agriculture and Food Systems in the 21st Century" will be held in San Francisco, CA; contact Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture, e-mail GCHERA@iastate.edu; on the Internet, www.gchera.iastate.edu/.