

Australian Standard™

Synthetic weed blocking fabric



S t a n d a r d s Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TX-008, Textiles for Horticulture and Agriculture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 May 2001 and published on 28 May 2001.

The following interests are represented on Committee TX-008:

Australian Business
Australian Cancer Society
Australian Chamber of Commercial and Industry
New South Wales TAFE Commission
N.S.W Agriculture
Nursery Industry Association of Australia
Office of Training and Further Education Victoria
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association
Testing Interests
University of New South Wales

Keeping Standards up-to-date

Standards are living documents which reflect progress in science, technology and systems. To maintain their currency, all Standards are periodically reviewed, and new editions are published. Between editions, amendments may be issued. Standards may also be withdrawn. It is important that readers assure themselves they are using a current Standard, which should include any amendments which may have been published since the Standard was purchased.

Detailed information about Standards can be found by visiting the Standards Australia web site at www.standards.com.au and looking up the relevant Standard in the on-line catalogue.

Alternatively, the printed Catalogue provides information current at 1 January each year, and the monthly magazine, *The Australian Standard*, has a full listing of revisions and amendments published each month.

We also welcome suggestions for improvement in our Standards, and especially encourage readers to notify us immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Contact us via email at mail@standards.com.au, or write to the Chief Executive, Standards Australia International Ltd, GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001.

Australian Standard™

Synthetic weed blocking fabric

First published as AS 4843—2001.

COPYRIGHT

© Standards Australia International

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher.

Published by Standards Australia International Ltd
GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 0 7337 3921 0

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee TX-008, Textiles for Horticulture and Agriculture.

In seeking to provide minimum requirements for products which will perform efficiently over a reasonable period of use, this Standard covers the attributes of light blocking, permeability, UV stability, tensile strength, tear strength, and resistance to puncture. The attribute of chemical resistance has not been included in the minimum requirements. While it is accepted that chemical resistance is an important issue, the variety of substances to which the fabric could be subjected in chemical spraying would make it inappropriate to choose any particular substance to which the fabric must be exposed in a test in the Standard and to set a minimum requirement for an end result for that test. Biodegradability is another issue which is not covered, for the reason that it is not usually an attribute required in these synthetic materials.

Users requiring to know the performance of a fabric in respect of chemical resistance or biodegradability are advised of appropriate test methods.

The results used to determine the minimum requirements were based upon products already available and known to perform adequately.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	4
1 SCOPE.....	5
2 OBJECTIVE	5
3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	5
4 DEFINITION	5
5 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS	6
6 OTHER PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS	7
7 LABELLING	7
APPENDIX A CALCULATION OF % PAR BLOCK	8

FOREWORD

The function of weedblocking fabric is to retard weed growth. However, it will not prevent all growth occurring. It is designed to be used in domestic and commercial applications and the performance requirements set out in this Standard are criteria for both styles of fabric. In some particular commercial applications, a more robust fabric is required which will have higher performance requirements than those specified in this Standard.

Woven weed block fabric is designed and manufactured to be more robust and resistant to UV degradation than non-woven fabric, and can be used with or without a covering of organic or inorganic mulch.

Non-woven weed block fabric is designed and manufactured for greater water permeability and should be used with a covering of organic or inorganic mulch.