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Czech J. Food Sci. Š áka E., Kruliš Z., Kotek J., Růžek L.,

Z., Růžková M.:

Application of wheat B-starch in biodegradable plastic materials

Czech J. Food Sci., 29 (2011): 232-242

Food application of wheat B-starch comprising small starch granules as a result of lower quality is problematic. Accordingly, B-starch or acetylated starch prepared from it, with the degree of substitution (DS) of 1.5-2.3, was used in biodegradable films after blending with poly-(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL). The following mechanical characteristics of the produced films were derived from the stress-strain curves: Young modulus, yield stress, stress-at-break, and strainat-break. Water absorption of PCL/starch (60/40) films was determined according to European standard ISO 62. The measured data were compared with those of commercial A-starch. The films containing native starch degraded in

compost totally during 2 months. Acetylation of starch molecules in the composites reduced the degradation rate. Optical microscopy, in combination with the image analysis system NIS-Elements vs. 2.10 completed with an Extended Depth of Focus (EDF) module, was used to study the surface morphology of PCL/starch films after 20-day and 42-day compost incubation. Chemical changes in the compost used for the film exposition were measured.

Keywords:

biodegradable plastic; polycaprolactone; B-starch; wheat starch; image analysis; biodegradability

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