

Eupatorium [*Chromolaena odorata* (L.) King and Robinson] biomass as a source of organic manure in okra cultivation

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Abstract

Eupatorium [*Chromolaena odorata* (L.) King and Robinson] is a noxious weed that has the potential to produce large quantities of mineral nutrient-rich biomass, which may be used as a source of organic manure in crop production. In the present study, response of okra, an important vegetable crop of Kerala, to applications of eupatorium compost and green leaf manure, was evaluated along with four other sources of organic manures (vermicompost, coirpith compost, fresh poultry manure and farm yard manure) on equivalent N basis (12 t ha⁻¹ of farmyard manure). The results clearly suggest the usefulness of composting the weed biomass before use. Indeed, eupatorium compost was similar to poultry manure in terms of crop performance and had the highest B:C ratio.

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