

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS: March 2012 - WeedGuardPlus® now designated a USDA Certified Biobased Product

WeedGuardPlus® The Environmentally friendly choice for Weed Control Mulch has been awarded USDA BioPreferred designation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, falling within the USDA BioPreferred Landscaping and Agriculture – Weed Control category. In addition **WeedGuardPlus®** is also identified for **Federal Procurement Preference** by federal agencies and their contractors when making purchasing decisions.

Recognized by the USDA for having at least **100-percent** biobased content, **WeedGuardPlus®** underwent third-party certification to assure the presence and amount of biobased ingredients, which is strictly monitored by the agency. **WeedGuardPlus®** packaging now displays the certification label mark to aid consumer decision-making on renewable, natural resource alternatives.

“We are delighted and very proud that **WeedGuardPlus®** meets the high standards of the USDA,” said Wayne Brady, President and Mike Gallagher, Executive Vice President of SunShine Paper Company manufacturer of **WeedGuardPlus®**. “Consumers trust the USDA as a source of information and with this designation, growers and home gardeners can have confidence in **WeedGuardPlus®** as a bio-based seasonal use landscaping and garden mulch.”

According to the agency, USDA BioPreferred products spur the development of the biobased industry through value-added agricultural processing and manufacturing in rural communities; enhances the nation’s energy security by substituting biobased products for fossil energy-based products; and reduces the nation’s environmental impact by promoting products more benign to the environment. For more information, go to www.biopreferred.gov.

WeedGuardPlus® is the environmentally sound and acceptable replacement for persistent, plastic weed blocks. It is a 100% biodegradable, all natural, environmentally sustainable, weed controlling mulch made from natural cellulose fibers. It effectively prevents weeds, nurtures the soil as it slowly decomposes, reduces erosion, moderates soil temperatures and can be worked into the soil after the growing season or left to naturally decompose. Unlike, synthetic weed barriers, **WeedGuardPlus®** is produced from eco-effective, renewable resources. **WeedGuardPlus®** is available in Natural~Organic Formula and a unique range of enhanced formulations including Standard Weight Plain, New Heavy Weight Plain and "Creped", Humic Acid Fortified, Pre-Punched for “perfect Spacing” and easy to use. To learn more about **WeedGuardPlus®** and SunShine Paper’s other biodegradable product innovations, visit www.weedguardplus.com