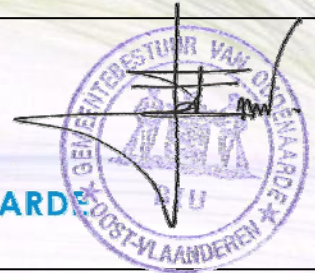




SUMMARY TRIAL REPORT

City of Oudenaarde case study

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Parks, hanging baskets, flower beds and other landscaped areas are the pride of many a city and its inhabitants. However, maintaining hanging baskets and flower displays to a high standard can be a challenging task for the city's horticultural staff.

The most frequent occurring maintenance issues are related to the [availability of water](#):

- Plant loss caused by drought stress
- Shortage of staff during the holidays
- Disruption of the traffic in the city centre due to watering
- Hard to reach places for the watering truck
- ...

Costs / benefits – analysis:



(1) Lay-out

• Growing medium (per m<sup>3</sup>)

50% Black peat	1.25 kg Pg – mix		
40% White peat	+ (14-16-18 with	+ 1.5 kg Osmocote	+ 10 kg TerraCottem® Universal
10% Clay	trace elements)		



• Plant species

*Pelargonium, Bidens, Helichrysum, Glechoma, Sanvitalia, Surfinia, Impatiens*

• Planters

Type A	# 862
Type B	# 22
Type C	# 72
Type D	# 11

# 967



(2) Inputs & balance

- Labour costs of 1 watering round for type A baskets = 25 hours  
Labour costs of 1 watering round for the other type baskets = 16 hours
- Watering is done from mid-May to mid-September = 18 weeks
- Due to the incorporation of TerraCottem® Universal, the irrigation frequency decreased by at least once a week

Number of irrigation rounds	Before	Now
Type A baskets	3 / week	2 / week (*)
Other types	2 / week	1 / week (*)

(\*) i.e. 33-50% less irrigation.

- The incorporation of TerraCottem® Universal allowed a reduction in labour costs of 90 days per season

Labour costs of watering per season	Before	Now
Type A baskets	1350 hour	900 hour
Other types	576 hour	288 hour
Total (hours)	1926	1188
Total (days)	241	149
<b>Difference</b>		<b>92 days</b>

- Depending on the cost of labour and the watering truck one can determine the total cost savings.



City of Oudenaarde, Belgium