

Vertical Green (VG) Biobed

Ecological degradation of pesticide effluents

Technology Opportunity

Due to increasingly stringent environmental regulations, biobeds are gaining popularity. VG Biobeds complement the current offer by providing degradation efficiency, surface savings, aesthetics and cost savings.

A solution to stringent environmental regulations

Due to increasingly stringent environmental regulations, biobeds are gaining popularity among farmers, wine producers, golf course owners, green house and greened land managers in general. They allow to naturally eliminate pesticide effluents, thus avoiding release in natural and environmentally sensitive surface water. **Current biobeds show significant weaknesses;** they get easily waterlogged and require very large surfaces.

In contrast, VG Biobeds do not present such drawbacks and are fully vegetalized, which makes them more effective and appealing to the eyes.

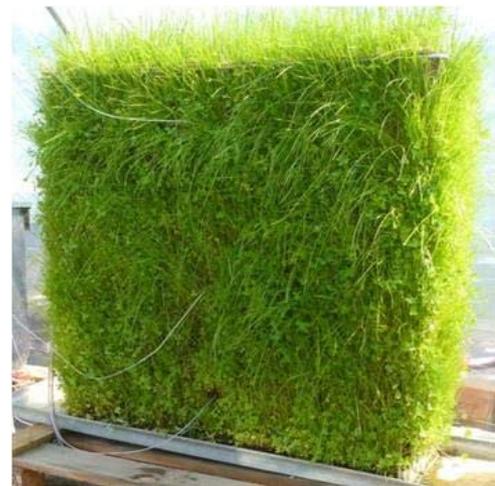
While VG Biobeds look like regular walls covered entirely by plants they simultaneously **perform efficient pesticide effluent degradation**. An automated collection, storage and dripping system allows for the continuous degradation of large quantities of effluents, **typically 6m³/m²/year compared to 0.6 m³/m²/year for existing horizontal systems**. Built with locally available soil, they are cost effective.

With a significant edge over current biobeds, their vegetation transpires the water in the bed, offering local cooling and moisturizing in the immediate neighbourhood. The vegetation life cycle also naturally contributes to the renewal of the substrate. VG Biobeds integrate well functionally and aesthetically in an urban landscape.

VG Biobeds have been developed and **patented** by Hepia, an engineering school in Geneva, Switzerland. A European patent application was filed in 2011.

An entrepreneurial success story

In 2010, entrepreneur Nicolas Ecavert, a former student of Prof. Pascal Boivin, the inventor decided to leverage the opportunity of the VG Biobed technology.



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As an agronomist himself, he quickly realized the potential of the technology. Many farmers and wine producers had indeed expressed interest in having such solutions installed in their farm.

In less than 6 months, EcaVert Sàrl raised the interest of investors and the media. He won several prestigious prizes, helping him to kick start his company.

While EcaVert Sàrl acquired an exclusive license to exploit the VG Biobed technology in Switzerland, **licenses** for other European countries are **available** from Hepia.

Video (Youtube): <http://alturl.com/vhvti>

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