

Supplementary Information

A review of microplastic fibres: generation, transport, and vectors for metal(loid)s in terrestrial environments

Table S1: Reported and mean metal(loid)s concentrations of European, municipal sewage sludge from studies published in 2019. Missing values were not quantified in the respective studies.

Reference	Metal(loid) Concentration (mg kg ⁻¹ dry sludge)																
	As	Cd	Co	Cr	Cu	Hg	Mn	Mo	Ni	Pb	Sb	Se	Sn	Sr	Tl	V	Zn
Antonkiewicz et al. (2019) ⁹⁸		0.867		47.3	133	0.45	109.7		16.6	33.5							258
Barca et al. (2019) ⁹⁹		16	12	140	2500		440		66	200		66				15	2080
Bartkowska et al. (2019) ¹⁰⁰		1.91		258.26	331.97	0.75			33.01	34.67							716.34
		2.28		33.06	287.26	0.8			24.18	52.92							1458.62
		1.33		25.81	209.17	0.6			16.65	17.63							1395.89
		2.12		43.38	203.52	0.41			14.63	22.25							813.1
		1.56		67.36	529.43	7.14			47.25	44.63							1233.41
		1.39		17.33	312.67	2.52			13.37	12.47							1110.67
	1.64		35.68	298.25	1.54			15.31	20.94							1007.33	
Bastida et al. (2019) ¹⁰¹		0.67		46.21	174.88		164.46	12.00	32.42	42.94				669.39			
Černe et al. (2019) ¹⁰²		0.7		21.1	103.6	0.9			9.5	32.8							650.0
		0.8		88.6	393.3	1.8			44.2	51.2							1112.7
		1.1		30.3	186.3	0.9			20.6	42.0							917.5
Jaskulak et al. (2019) ⁷⁴		7.62								242.84							2471.15
		4.27								64.55							733.36
Kicińska et al. (2019) ¹⁰³		6		75	220				17	173							1086
Ledakowicz et al. (2019) ⁷⁵		1.37		330	440	1.26	556		153	32.1							757
Regkouzas et al. (2019) ¹⁰⁴				145.2	363.7				99.3	80.7							836.4
				140.3	380.4				93.5	186.6							1842.5
				81.5	219.5				86.3	60							664
Ronda et al. (2019) ³²	4.6	1.9	5.1	73	384		206		106	48	13.7	1	284.8		0.3	59.8	304.4
Turek et al. (2019) ¹⁰⁵		3.85		10.2	132.55				15.8	31.85							875.55
		5.25		7	106.45				19.9	42.1							681.35
		3.6		11.85	124.5				20.3	32.15							886.6
		5.2		9.45	100.8				21.6	50.5							704.05
		2.55		10.7	111.9				13.15	30.75							792.2
		10.7		8.4	86.8				16.9	39.75							601.2
Urra et al. (2019) ¹⁰⁶		3		73	196				40	47							936
Mean	4.6	3.41	8.55	71.35	348.72	1.72	327.93	12.00	43.17	58.80	13.7	33.5	284.8	669.37	0.3	37.4	956.39

Table S2: UK, EU and USA legislative limits on soil and sludge concentrations of metal(loid)s permissible for use in agriculture, and loading limits to agricultural soils. * = values correspond to residential/allotment/commercial limits respectively. # = if total CaCO₃ concentration of soil is ≥ 5%. Sources: GB Parliament (1989),¹⁰⁹ DoE (1996),¹¹⁰ EU (1986).¹¹¹

Regulatory Body/ Legislation		Environment Agency (UK)	Environmental Protection Agency (USA)	EU Sewage Sludge Directive 86/278/EEC Limit Values			UK Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989, no 1263					
Name of Regulation		Soil Guideline Values (SGVs)*	Soil Screening Guidance Values	Agricultural Soils	Sludge applied to agricultural land	Annual Loading	Soil limit values					Maximum Permissible Average over 10 Years
Units		mg/kg soil	mg/kg soil	mg/kg soil	mg/kg dry matter	g/ha/year	pH > 5	pH 5.0-5.5	pH 5.5-6.0	pH 6.0-7.0	pH > 7.0	
Element	As	32/43/640	0.4	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	0.7
	Cd	10/2/230	78	3	40	0.15	3	-	-	-	-	0.15
	Cr	-	390	-	-	-	400	-	-	-	-	15
	Cu	-	-	140	1750	12	-	80	100	135	200	7.5
	Hg	1/26/26	23	5	25	0.1	1	-	-	-	-	0.1
	Ni	130/230/1800	1600	75	400	3	-	50	60	75	110	3
	Pb	-	400	300	1200	15	300	-	-	-	-	15
	Se	350/120/13000	390	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	0.15
Zn	-	23000	300	4000	30	-	200	250	300	450	15	