



## **Utilization of Green Mulches in Intensive Apple Orchards**

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**Abstract:** Apple cultivation in Albania is an important economic activity. According to the statistics of INSTAT & MAFCP, as of 2008 a total of 110.000 farms was to be found across the country dealing in the cultivation of apples, in which case the principal plantations are situated in areas such as Korca , Pogradec, etc. In the last 10 years, the farms have been able to adopt new and advanced cultivation technologies. The farmers have been able to also use vegetative rootstocks which are certified and capable of obtaining 2600-3000 trees/ha. What adds to the interest of the specialists is the fact that the cultivation area has spread everywhere including even the low-lying areas, while the cultivation schemes have deliberately led to the utilization of organic materials by limiting the use of chemical fertilizers. In order to better evaluate this agricultural reality, the Department of Horticulture at AU of Tirana has defined by means of a research the most efficient ways and manners of managing the soil under the conditions surrounding the plain areas. The trial was conceived in 6 variants x 4 repeat/variant. At the end of the research it was concluded that the superiority went to V<sub>5</sub> (meadow mix) which obtained a profit to the tune of 28 239.9 €/ha (121.13 %) and to V<sub>3</sub> (mixed clovers) with 25 755.6 €/ha (110.47 %). Even the qualitative ingredients of the fruit like the content of sugar and the acidity experience significant changes.

**Keywords:** *apple growing, soil management scheme, variants, Albania*

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