



Urine fertiliser now also for grass tennis courts

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Topics: Wastewater | Pollutants | Society | Climate Change & Energy

Eawag and the Eawag spin-off Vuna have made urine fertiliser production mobile. Today, the Urine Express will be presented at a very special location in Biel: next to the first public grass tennis court in Switzerland. In future, the tennis court is to be fertilised with urine fertiliser.

There is hardly a better place to test a fertiliser than a grass tennis court. A perfect lawn, grass-green, resistant and trimmed to the millimetre, needs the perfect food. Up until now, this food has been provided by artificial fertilisers. Now, the aquatic research institute Eawag, the spin-off Vuna and the operators of Switzerland's first public grass tennis court want to show that locally produced urine fertiliser can do the job. Today, the Urine Express is making a stopover in Biel in order to demonstrate the procedure. Artificial fertiliser has to be imported. Production and transport consume a lot of energy, and artificial fertilisers usually contain harmful substances such as the heavy metals cadmium or radioactive uranium, in addition to the useful ones. "Urine instead of uranium", says Bastian Etter, Managing Director of Vuna and former Eawag researcher who was instrumental in the development and certification of the urine fertiliser.

So, will the sacred lawn at Wimbledon soon be fertilised with fertiliser made from the pee of stadium spectators? "Who knows?", says Etter. Many things are possible, for after three weeks of use in Biel at <http://www.tennis-champagne.ch> the Urine Express will continue its journey to the next place of use and thus contribute to sustainable fertilisation not only of lawns, but also gardens, parks and even vegetables.



Mobile fertiliser factory on a trailer. (GIF: Stephanie Schnydrig)

Financing/partnerships:

The Urine Express is supported by:

The Federal Office for the Environment, Environmental Technology Promotion Eawag, the aquatic research institute of the ETH Domain Agriswiss Agricultural and Trailers Solutions



The Urine Express in a clip "Die Idee" by 10vor10 from SRF (Friday, February, 14th, 2020; in German)



Silvia Steidle (FDP) Finance Director of the City of Biel at the Urine Express press conference nearby the first public grass tennis court in Switzerland.

(Photo: Vuna)

Related Files

[Vuna media information of 17 February 2020](#) available in German and French [pdf, 50 KB]

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Contact Vuna

[Bastian Etter](#)

Contact



Andri Bryner

Media officer

Tel. +41 58 765 5104

andri.bryner@eawag.ch

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