

The Effect of Superabsorbant Polymer on Soil Heavy Metal Immobilization

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The purpose of this experiment was to characterize the effect of the super absorbent polymer in the presence of metal ions. Sodium polyacrylate samples were prepared using variations of NaOH concentrations. Sodium polyacrylate samples were then placed into aqueous solutions containing Cu^{2+} ions. The effects of pH, contact time, and initial Cu^{2+} ion concentrations on the adsorption of $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ ions were studied using a spectrophotometer. There was a definite correlation between the amount of sodium polyacrylate and the mass of Cu^{2+} ions, suggesting that sodium polyacrylate can be used for metal remediation. Water retention properties were also observed using water absorption capacity (WAC) formulas. An increase in pH correlated to a high WAC.