

# Polylactic acid

Poly(lactic acid) or polylactic acid or polylactide (PLA) is a [biodegradable](#) and [bioactive](#) thermoplastic aliphatic [polyester](#) derived from renewable resources, such as corn starch (in the United States and Canada), cassava roots, chips or starch (mostly in Asia), or sugarcane (in the rest of the world). In 2010, PLA had the second highest consumption volume of any bioplastic of the world.

The name “polylactic acid” does not comply with IUPAC standard nomenclature, and is potentially ambiguous or confusing, because PLA is not a polyacid (polyelectrolyte), but rather a polyester.

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