

# Popular Uses of Compost

Topdressing for Lawns • Vegetable Gardens • Flower Beds • Tree Planting • Potting Soil Ingredient

## WHY USE COMPOST?

- Improves soils' ability to retain water
- Breaks up clay in heavy soils by adding organic matter
- Conditions soil, makes plants grow healthier
- Makes soil more workable

### As a Top Dressing for Lawns

For best results, spread EcoSoil™ 1/4 to 1/2 inches evenly over your lawn using a rake. Water thoroughly. This will help the compost move through the thatch layer to the soil surface and into aeration holes where it can help retain moisture.

### Vegetable Gardens and Flower Beds

Before planting, mix 1-2 inches of EcoSoil™ into existing soil either by hand or rototiller to a depth of at least five inches. For poor soils, such as sandy soil, you may need to add compost every year until the soil has improved to your satisfaction. Overcomposting may lead to excess nitrogen and lower yield.

### Tree Planting, Shrubs, Roses

Rototill an area 3 to 5 times the diameter of the root ball of the tree, shrub or rose bush to be planted. Add 1 part EcoSoil™ by volume to the area and mix with the existing

- Helps improve drainage
- Reduces erosion
- Holds nutrients in the root zone
- Completes the recycling loop

soil. Place tree or bush into hole and backfill around the root ball. Remove excess soil and water thoroughly.

### Potting Soil/Container Mix

Screen out the large pieces, combine 25% – 30% EcoSoil™ with peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and sand. Pasteurize by leaving mixture in the sun for 30 minutes before re-planting.

### Mulch

For mulch applications around annuals, perennials, or other landscape plants, a 2-inch layer of compost is optimum. Make sure the application is even; over or under mulching may cause problems such as smothering of root systems. For mulching around trees, avoid excess mulch build-up around the trunk which creates a winter home for destructive rodents like moles and mice. Arrange mulch so water flows away from trunks, reducing chances for crown rot.

## HELPFUL HINTS

### Measuring The Area and Applying

Determine the total square feet of the area to receive compost by measuring length x width (in feet). Use this number and the chart below to determine the amount of compost needed for the desired depth (i.e. 1/4", 1/2", etc.) For example, if the garden area measure 100 square feet you will need 4.16 cubic feet of compost or a little over 4 bags to cover this area with 1/2 inch compost. NOTE: If more than 25 cubic feet is needed, bulk may be less expensive. Apply using a rototiller or by hand, blend the compost about 5 inches into the soil as evenly as possible to ensure proper mixing.

**(1) 40 lb. Bag of EcoSoil™ = approximately one cubic foot**

### Cubic Feet by Depth and Area

Determining the amount of compost needed\*

Sq. Ft	1/4"	1/2"	1"	1 1/2"	2"
100	2.08	4.16	8.30	12.50	16.70
200	4.16	8.30	16.70	25.00	33.30
300	6.25	12.50	25.00	37.50	50.00
400	8.00	16.70	33.00	50.00	66.70
500	10.40	20.90	41.20	62.50	83.30
1,000	20.80	41.70	83.30	125.00	166.70

### Analysis

Total Nitrogen	< 3 oz.
Total Phosphoric Acid	< 1 oz.
Total Pot Ash	< 2 oz.
AOAC Fertilizer	N, P2O5, K2O
Total Nitrogen	0.83%
Phosphorus	0.095%
Potassium	0.28%

\*The numbers on this chart indicate total cubic feet required at indicated depths.

Formula (Depth) + 12 x (Sq. Ft) = ( ). In order to convert this to cubic yards, take the end number and divide by 27.