

Compost is the natural, sustainable, low risk way to improve your soils in any landscape.

In general a quality compost product will have been through a full composting process, which involves pasteurisation and microbial transformation for at least 6 weeks. The product will be designed for specific applications and should be supplied with standard product information sheets.

One of the advantages of compost use is its versatility and effectiveness for different applications.

Roadside Landscaping

Composted mulch is a great option to explore in roadside landscaping. It looks good, requires little or no maintenance and can give plants the best chance of establishment and survival.

Composted mulch insulates the soil from temperature extremes - this means that plant root systems are less stressed and able to function more effectively. Healthy roots give rise to healthy plants, increasing establishment rates and decreasing the need for costly replanting. Nutrients supplied by compost mulch will also benefit plants in the roadside landscape over several years.



Observations from trials to date indicate the importance of using contaminant free compost. Light plastics in mulch are highly visible and can blow away after application. It is also important to ensure that mulch is fully composted to avoid the spreading of weeds and/or plant diseases such as Dieback (*Phytophthora Dieback*) - check the quality of your compost with your supplier to make sure it will meet your needs.

Compost can also be used as a soil replacement in roadside landscaping where construction/excavation has removed the topsoil from the area. Soil conditioners can help to improve the quality of roadside soil and the subsequent success of roadside landscaping.

Using composted mulch and other recycled organic products diverted from landfill is also a more sustainable option than using wood chips from the forestry industry.

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Community Parklands

Recent trials in NSW have shown that composted soil conditioners significantly improved turf establishment in parkland areas. Three months after sowing, composted areas had 94% turf cover compared to 37% in non-compost areas. Increased turf establishment means that costly reworking and replanting is not necessary - this can save councils considerable amounts of money. As well as increasing establishment, compost also increased turf growth with 5 times the turf biomass recorded in areas where compost was used.

Increased establishment and improved turf growth means that new parklands can be enjoyed sooner by the community and for a wider range of recreational uses.

Compost also increases soil stability making the soil less likely to erode. Less dust in the air and soil entering our waterways are also key health and environmental benefits of using compost in community areas.

Application: Applying a composted soil conditioner 30mm deep will give substantial benefits including increased turf establishment, organic matter, nutrient levels and soil fertility.

**compost**
for soils

An initiative of Compost Australia

For more information and a list of quality suppliers, go to

www.compostforsoils.com.au

the resource for compost users