Jindalee Ag
Soil, Compost & Ag Solutions

INFORMATION SHEET

SOIL MANAGEMENT

USE OF COMPOST IN ORCHARDS & VINEYARDS

The use of compost and soil conditioning products as a nutrient source for plants and to improve soil health is widely adopted general practice by many industries throughout the world.

Our certified organic premium compost is a natural product that results from the controlled biological decomposition of biodegradable materials such as FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) *(both biosolids and sewerage sludge free)* to achieve a premium quality certified organic and AS4454 compliant product.

Our compost products are a valuable natural organic resource that are high in organic and nutrient rich phytotoxic free material. This material increases soil carbon sequestration, enhances soil workability and enables essential moisture retention.

Benefits of compost:

- **Prevents soil erosion:** *Lost soil and organic matter equals lost nutrients*
- **Retains moisture:** *Mulching with compost enhances infiltration of rainfall and reduces evaporation from the soil surface, which equates to less need for irrigation*
- **Protects and provides:** *Helps protect soil and plants against pathogens and breaks down pollutants and provides the soil with vital slow release foliar nutrients to plants*
- **Improved Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC):** *Organic matter greatly increases the soil's cation exchange capacity, which is responsible for the retention of nutrients in the soil.*

Through our holistic approach to soil health, ongoing soil challenges can be faced by returning much needed organic matter and vital nutrients to rejuvenate depleted and compacted soil; restoring it to a healthy enriched soil that promotes insects, disease resistance and reduces reliance on water; thus, supporting the growth of healthier higher quality, high yield and high value products.

In orchards and vineyards, a healthy soil will protect trees, plants and vines by suppressing soil-borne plant pathogens and micro-organisms such as fungi and bacteria.

Where incorporating compost direct into soil is not possible, such as under trees and vines, an equally effective alternative way of reaping the benefits of compost to improve both soil fertility and soil health, compost can be spread as mulch.

JINDALEE AG PTY LTD ● PO BOX 1088 ALBURY NSW 2640 AUSTRALIA ● ABN: 25 626 611 407 ● 0455 263 526

Spreading compost as mulch under orchards and vines improves plant health, covers exposed roots and creates a surface that makes harvesting more efficient by producing a surface layer that the nuts can lay on rather than being trapped in the roots. In turn, this improves ecological recycling and lowers the risk of erosion. This practice works towards achieving a holistic, value-added and sustainable approach to horticulture by utilising available natural resources.

Supporting the use and benefits of compost for orchard soil management, according to SESL Australia one of Australia's leading environmental, soil, water and plant science experts, using compost for soil management in your orchard allows you to:

✓ Turn waste into a resource	✓ *save money on fertiliser*
✓ *grow more crop with less irrigation*	✓ *get better quality with less disease*

SESL Australia also state that '*It is possible to use compost to totally replace the need for manufactured mineral fertilisers, if the nature of the compost is fully understood. With a bit of work, you can restore the soil's organic matter and reap many benefits, including improved nutrient and water-holding capacity, improved soil structure, higher biological activity, better root growth and less disease.*'

'*Compost can replace fertiliser, but it depends heavily on the compost. A nutrient-rich compost made from food scraps, crop residues and fowl manure can provide all the nutrients required. But a nutrient-poor one made just from sawdust will create problems. The key point is that the ingredients that go into the compost determine the nutrient composition of the final product.*'

Furthermore, Craig van Rooyen - a Queensland macadamia and lychee grower; an advocate for holistic farming practices; and also, Elected Deputy Chair, Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers - is encouraging farmers to embrace bio-fertilisers to improve production and yields and reduce nitrogen use to '*return the organic matter to help retain moisture in the soil, use fewer herbicides, fungicides and pesticides, less nitrogen and improve the overall health of the plant and taste of the fruit*'.

Van Rooyen also believes '…. *you can increase your yield significantly by having a healthier soil by having the biology working really well in the soil, that biology is communicating with the plant and it's able to take up the nutrients when it is really required rather than when you think it'srequired.*

"You need to have a good combination between the nutrition that you are adding to the soil and also having good biology in the soil so that it can work well with the plant."

Importantly, utilising compost from recycled organic resources (FOGO) significantly increases organic matter and supports the transition to environmental sustainability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT JINDALEE AG ON
0455 263 526
www.jindaleeag.com.au

@jindaleeag