

COMPOST APPLICATION GUIDE LINE

Compost application can vary due to soil conditions. Rule of thumb, these guidelines will give you some idea how to apply compost.

First off, compost IS NOT a soil. It's a soil additive, helping with aeration and holding of moisture. Use common sense when applying compost, not the myth "a little is good, more will even be better" compost may harm your plants, trees and grass.

TOP DRESSING TURF (EXISTING LAWNS). It is recommended that turf is aerated prior to compost application. Aeration involves creating small holes in the turf using a coring device, which removes a small core of soil and leaves it on the surface. After compost is applied at the rate of 1/4" to 1/2", the surface is raked, the cores break up and are mixed by the raking action with the compost, and the mixture falls into the holes created during aeration. For turf application top dressing is recommended annually.

NEW LAWNS. Compost applied at 1 to 2 inch depths and tilled into a 5 inch depth. This amends native soils and allows new turf seeding projects to be "jump started" with a wide range of nutrients available from the compost and a good moisture reserve.

GENERAL LANDSCAPING. When building a new home, there is a significant amount of effort spent on final grading portions of finishing the yard. The application of 1 to 2 inches of compost will give a good even surface for seeding. Getting the organic matter into the soil prior to seeding or laying sod is the key, because once the turf is up and growing, your option to add an organic matter really is limited.

Indeed, the poorer the soil conditions the more compost is needed to add significant organic matter to disturbed soil. Many soils around the house, actually are sub-soils that result from the excavation for basements or overall site grading. These sub-soils are not ideal for growing, and if organic matter is not added, using top dressing after aeration only will help the top few inches. If this is the case, roots will not be encouraged to grow below the aeration depth and will depend more on irrigation and fertilization for proper growth.

PLANTING BEDS. Twenty to thirty percent by volume of soils used for planting beds should contain compost. Where there is abundant topsoil, adding compost and blending it into soils works well. Typically a 2inch application works best for planting beds.

LANDSCAPE PLANT MULCHING. Because of its dark color and soil amending properties using compost for mulch is very common. Compost mulch provides a natural amendment that may be worked in around plants once they cycle through the growth process each year.

Follow these simple guidelines, ask questions and I'm sure you will have a beautiful yard and garden. The following information on the composted waste products is furnished to you for your information and does not in any way guarantee the quality of this product.

This product is composed of some or all of the following items:

Bio-solids as produced by the City of Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Plant (human waste product), garden and yard clippings, wood products, straw, hay, manure, and miscellaneous organic products.

This product has been tested for the presence of salmonella and heavy metals. All of the tested parameters are within the requirements as established by Federal Register 40-CFR Part 503 which indicate the material is safe for public use.

The actual compost quality compared to the regulatory standard is shown in below:
 Bag #1

Pollutant	"As Received" Aug. 2015 Mg/Kg	Table 3 Regulatory Standard Mg/Kg
Total Arsenic	Non detect	41
Total Cadmium	Non detect	39
Total Chromium	9.52	1200
Total Copper	47	1500
Total Lead	7.0	300
Total Mercury	Non detect	17
Total Molybdenum	Non detect	N/A
Total Nickel	7.7	420
Total Selenium	Non detect	36
Total Zinc	57.2	2800
Total Ph	7.8	N/A

Compost Transportation Guideline

Compost transported in pick-ups or pick-up box trailers and trucks must have closed tailgate and a tarp. Compost transported on flatbed, snow machine, car trailers and flat bed trucks must have a minimum of 12 inch front, sides, rear retainers and a tarp. Loader operator may refuse to load any unit, if he or she feels compost will be scattered upon highways or streets.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

For more specific information, please contact the Sheridan City Landfill at 674-8461. Lab tests are available for review. Landfill employees will have the loader available to load pick-ups, trucks and trailers Monday through Friday from 7:30am through 12 noon and 1pm through 5:30pm while compost is available.