



Compost Use

Knowing what compost is (and what it's not) is an important first step in ensuring that you use compost in the best way possible. *Compost is the product manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials.*



Top dressing with compost.

Topdressing is a method of applying compost by spreading a thin layer on top of your project area. With this surface application method, established plant roots aren't disturbed. Generally the compost is spread .5-1" thick around trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables. On top of lawns, a finer grade compost is spread 1/4" thick.

Amending soil with compost.

This method involves mixing compost into the soil. This is an especially useful method when the soil is compacted or lacks organic matter, and there aren't tree roots to avoid. Generally the compost is applied 1-2" thick and then mixed in 6-8" deep into the soil.



Creating a topsoil mix.

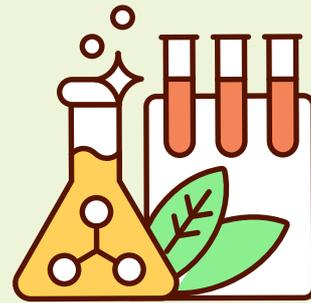
Compost is added to topsoil, mixed, and then applied to your project area. This adds beneficial organic matter to the soil. Mix 5-30% compost into your soil.

How to Find and Buy Quality Compost

Using compost is a good first step, but using high-quality compost is even better. Finding compost suppliers and making sure that the compost you purchase has the qualities you need for your purpose are important in ensuring the success of your project.



Check out our where to buy map on carolinacompost.com.



Buying from participants in the STA Certified Compost program ensures the compost is tested frequently and you have the confidence of knowing the test results.



US Composting Council

Seal of Testing Assurance®



The US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program 'STA' is a compost testing, labeling and information disclosure program designed to give you the information you need to get the maximum benefit from compost.

Learn more about STA Certification at: compostingcouncil.org/page/CertifiedCompostSTA



The US Composting Council launched a 'Strive for 5%' organic matter campaign in late 2011, in conjunction with the introduction of the Consumer Compost Use Program. This informational program reinforces the idea that soils should contain at least 5% organic matter.