

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.

Low maintenance landscaping

Recycled organic products like compost mulch can do a lot of the landscape maintenance work for you.

Compost mulch can reduce the need and/or frequency of irrigation which can save significant time and money, particularly if manual watering of landscaped areas is needed. Weed and disease control is another important feature of composted products. Compost mulch can prevent weed growth, reducing the amount of herbicide (and labour) needed to maintain landscaped areas. Composts contain naturally-occurring bacteria that can help fight off plant diseases.

Composted products improve soil structure and nutrition over time, meaning that less fertiliser may be needed to maintain healthy plant growth. These benefits can continue over several years and as a result, save considerable amounts of money.

Compost mulch can last longer in your landscape than raw mulch which in some cases may need to be replaced each year. The use of raw mulch also presents the risk of introducing weeds and plant diseases such as Dieback to your landscape.



Sustainable landscape practices

Aside from diverting waste from landfill, using recycled organic products can be a great substitute for some less sustainable landscaping practices. Organic soil or soils blended with compost soil conditioners can be used as replacement soil in landscaping situations where no topsoil is available or if it is of very poor quality.

Using composted products to replace topsoil reduces the need for harvesting of natural soils from river beds, flood plains or other environmentally sensitive areas. Composted products return organic carbon to the soil where it can be stored - this is vital for combating the challenges of climate change.

Compost mulch may be a more sustainable option than using wood chips or other by-products of the forestry industry.

Using compost products as a component of potting mixes is also more sustainable than using peat which is mined from sensitive peat bogs and wetland areas.



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