

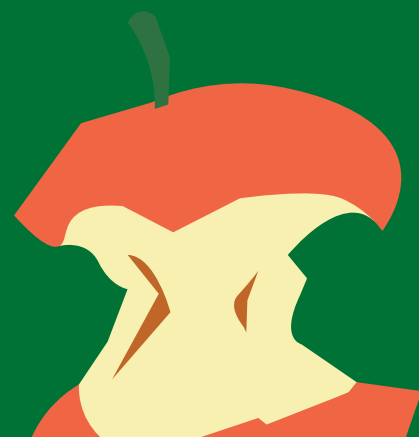
THE WORLD OF COMPOST

A Look Into Organic Waste and How It Can Benefit Your Soil



Introduction to Compost

Composting has been around for a very long time. By some accounts over 12,000 years, likely as long as humans have been growing food. In this document, we will take a look at the four primary types of compost and their uses. Finally, we will have a look at things to watch out for when purchasing compost.





What Is Compost?

According to the Composting Council, “compost is the product manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biological materials.”

There are four primary types of compost: **Mulch**, **Fertilizing**, **Inoculating** and **Nutritional**.

Types of Compost



Mulch



Fertilizing



Inoculating



Nutritional

Mulch Compost

What Is It?

Mulching composts are used primarily for ground coverage. It is well known that bare soil can get 20 - 30 degrees hotter than ambient temperatures on a hot day and can lead to evaporation and loss of soil life.

Mulch composts can be highly carbonaceous/chunky and not heavily screened. They are good for small scale operations, market gardens, medicinal grow ops, and orchards.



Mulch Compost

Benefits

- Can utilize a deep compost mulch system (thick layer on surface)
- Holds moisture
- Feeds soil slowly over time
- Warmer than most mulches due to dark color
- Contains beneficial microbes

Disadvantages

- Can't effectively be incorporated
- Does not have an instant effect
- May be too warm for sensitive crops
- Can cause nutritional imbalances when used in large quantities



Fertilizing Compost

What Is It?

Fertilizing composts are used for their soil amendment properties and especially for nitrogen. This type of compost must be used with caution as nitrogen burn can result from overuse.

Fertilizing composts are primarily made from composted poultry manures, usually in a pelleted form. They have high nitrogen content and are typically applied lightly. These types of composts create a “nitrogen bust” and are generally high in nutrients, which makes them useful for plant growth. Fertilizing compost should be used sparingly as needed.



Inoculating Compost

What Is It?

Inoculating compost is used when you want to kick start the activity of the soil food web in your field/garden. The value lies in its ability to act as a carrier for specific beneficial soil microbes that you want to "grow" in your fields. In using this type of compost, the value of the compost lies in the life that resides within the compost - treat it gently to keep it alive and thriving.

- Less about nutrients and more about microbes.
- Used in small quantities.
- Typically used in foliar sprays, soil drenches, teas and extracts.
- Can also be added as pre-seed treatment or during seeding.

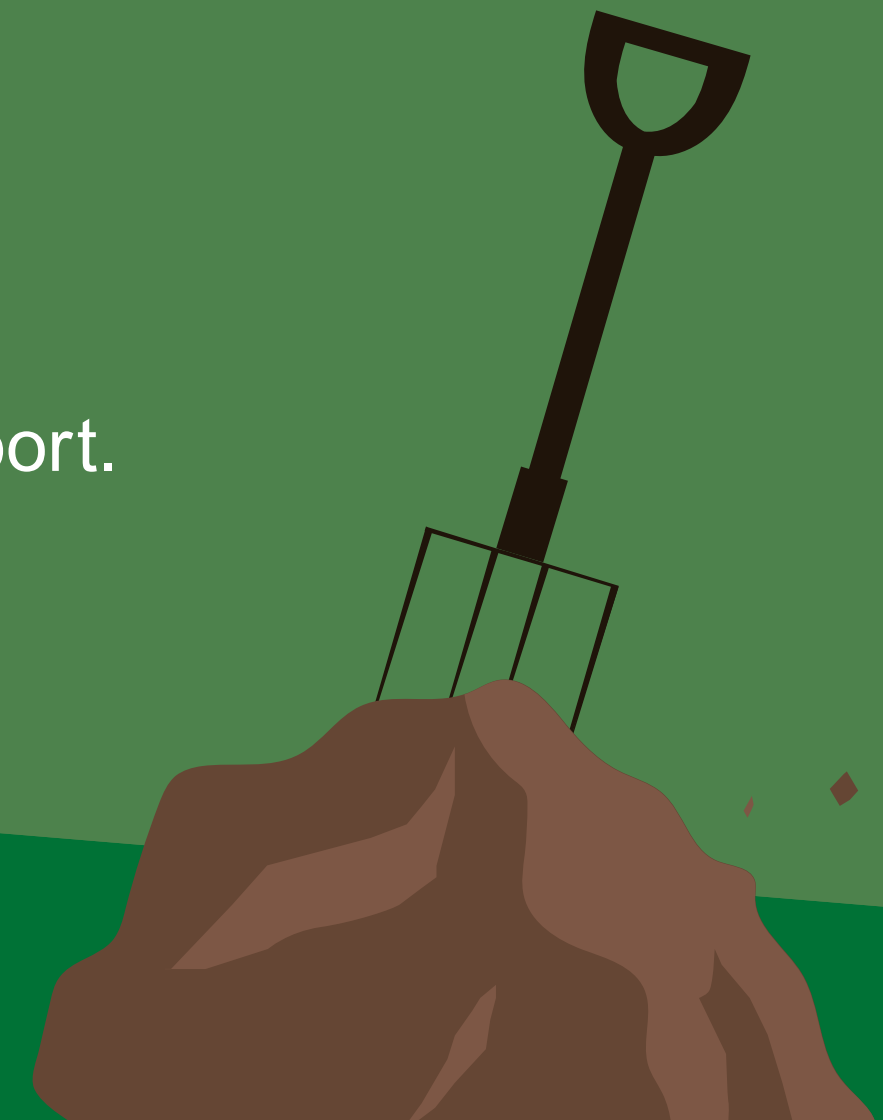
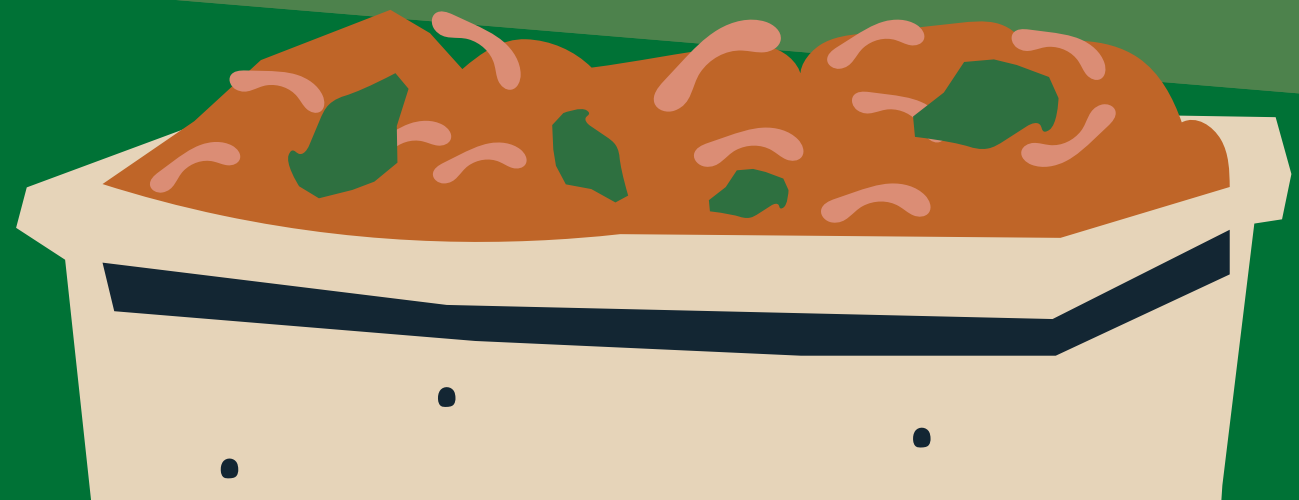


Nutritional Compost

What Is It?

Nutritional composts are similar to inoculating composts in that they boost the soil food web. This effect is further boosted with soil nutrient amendments and organic matter.

- Generally high quality.
- Often contains added rock dust or other amendments.
- Should have 35% to 65% organic material based on dry weight.
- Usually a 50/50 blend of manure and greenway compost.
- Because of the blending, this compost is a good soil food web life support.

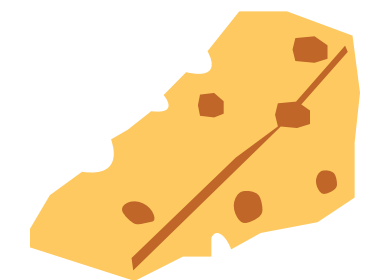


The Ins and Outs of Purchasing Compost



Things to Watch Out For

- Persistent herbicides and other chemicals could be present in purchased compost.
 - Using compost contaminated with these harmful chemicals can accumulate in plants, wildlife and ultimately people.
 - 1,500+ forever chemicals (i.e., PFAs, PFOAs, PFOs).
- Weed seeds/roots could be present.
- May not be mature (well-aged).
- Bagged compost can contain fillers such as wood chips and sand which could limit their effectiveness.



The Ins and Outs of Purchasing Compost




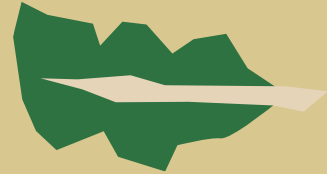

What You Can Do

- Know the source of the raw materials that are turned into compost.
- Ask about how the compost was made.
- Ask other producers what they use.
- Ask the composter what they do to mitigate contamination.
 - Do they have feedstock control?
 - Is the compost well aged?





For More Information

- [Compost On a Large Scale: Regenerating 1000 Acres: with Cory Miller and Kevin Lackey](#) (Video)
 - [The Four Types of Compost \(and how they're used\)](#) (Video)
 - [Compost & Soil: Restoring Health and Rebalancing the Climate](#) (Video)
 - [Compost Types, Feedstocks and Composting Methods](#) (Chapter)
 - [Compost Supplementation with Nutrients and Microorganisms in Composting Process](#) (Journal Article)
 - [Biochar Amendment for Batch Composting of Nitrogen Rich Organic Waste: Effect on Degradation Kinetics, Composting Physics and Nutritional Properties](#) (Journal Article)
 - [Utilization of Microbial Inoculation and Compost for Revitalization of Soils](#) (Journal Article)
 - [A Critical Evaluation of Inoculums in Composting](#) (Journal Article)
 - [You Are Being SCAMMED - What Bagged CONpost Companies Don't Want You to Know](#) (Video)
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THANK YOU FOR READING!

