

Product Information Note – Landscaping

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PRODUCT

Product type	0-10mm Soil improver
Compost made from composted:	Garden and plant materials.
Compost produced in accordance with and certified to BSI PAS 100:2018 and Compost Quality Protocol	
Compost certification code:	SG-PF-0010
Designated application:	Landscaping and horticulture

STORAGE

This product keeps best when stored in a cool, dry place. If covered to prevent risk of contamination by wind-blown weed seeds and minimise gradual change in biological and chemical characteristics, it will keep best under a gas-permeable cover.

SAFE HANDLING AND USE

Every effort has been made to ensure this compost contains no germs, sharp fragments, toxins or regenerative plant parts. However, the compost producer cannot guarantee they will never be present. As with all products of this type, wear gloves when handling and wash hands after use. During handling, avoid inhaling any dust or water vapour from it or ingesting any of it. These precautions also apply to operators of machines that spread compost.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

- Follow the joint Environment Agency/Fertilisers Manufacturers Association (FMA) guidance, *Protect the environment: the essential guide for storing solid and liquid fertilisers*, to ensure the compost is stored in a manner that protects the environment.
- Handle the compost as described in the FMA's *Code of practice for the prevention of water pollution from the storage and handling of solid fertilisers* to ensure that its storage and handling does not cause harm to human health or the environment. Application and use of quality compost
- Seek advice from an advisor qualified under the Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme (FACTS).
- In areas of England and Wales designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) (i.e. areas designated under legislation to implement the Nitrates Directive), applications of quality compost must comply with the relevant mandatory Action Programme measures. These include various requirements for maximum rates of application and permitted application windows for different types of manures and quality compost. In all other areas these requirements should be followed wherever practical.

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- Ensure any application of quality compost conforms to the requirements set out in the *Protecting our water, soil and air: a code of good agricultural practice for farmers, growers and land managers* (2009) (CoGAP)(or subsequent guidance) for air, water and soil. This covers all aspects of agricultural activities including nutrient use. In particular, do not spread compost on frozen, snow-covered or waterlogged ground, or within 10 metres of a watercourse.
- Apply the compost as described in the Defra guidance, *Single Farm Payment Scheme – cross compliance guidance for soil management*.
- Match compost applications to the nutrient status of the receiving soil, crop nutrient requirement, growth stage and prevailing weather conditions and make them as per the guidance given in the Defra *Fertiliser Manual* (RB209) latest edition.
- Compost applications should adhere to the soil *Potentially Toxic Element* (PTE) limit values set out in the revised *Code of Practice for the agricultural use of sewage sludge*.
- When applying compost for land reclamation or land restoration, follow the guidance and information in the *Code of practice for the use of sludge, compost and other organic materials for land reclamation*.
- Ensure all chemical analysis are carried out by laboratories using appropriate methods that are accredited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17025 for the Environment Agency's *MCERTS* performance standard for the chemical testing of soil.
- Sample soils for major nutrients regularly. Do not apply compost unless the soil has been analysed within the last five years (in accordance with RB209).
- Include extractable phosphorus (Olsen method), available potassium, available magnesium in nutrient analysis.
- Calculate nitrogen using soil nitrogen supply except where RB209 requires soil analysis.
- Sulphur should be calculated using the methodology given in RB209.
- The compost producer should arrange for the compost to be analysed, and the land manager if in England or Wales, or the controller of the land if in Northern Ireland, should arrange for the receiving soil to be analysed for PTEs (lead, cadmium, chromium, mercury, copper, zinc, nickel) to ensure that the compost limit values set in PAS100 are not exceeded by the compost and the soil limit values set in the Sludge Code are not exceeded in the receiving soil.

Soil analysis for PTEs should be carried out before the first application of compost and again when any predicted soil PTE concentration becomes equal to or greater than 75 percent of its corresponding limit value set out in the Sludge Code.