

How to Use It



Finished compost is not a fertilizer, rather it is classified as a soil conditioner. A good range of minor plant nutrients essential for plant growth, are found in the compost, nonetheless. Unlike chemical fertilizers, compost has a built-in time-release mechanism that also promotes healthy vegetation.

The dark, soil-like material can be used in potted plants. It helps produce healthy flower and vegetable gardens. Trees and shrubs are good compost recipients. Compost can also be used as part of a seed starting mix or, when screened, as lawn top-dressing.

The best time to dig compost into a garden is when the soil bed is being prepared for planting. The compost becomes a "soil amendment". Smaller quantities of finished material can be spread under the seed furrow or placed in each transplant hole.

Compost can also be used to make tea. No, this is not a beverage for human consumption; it is used to irrigate gardens. In a barrel of water, a burlap bag of compost is inserted. After a week or two the tea is ready to use. If more nitrogen is required by a gardener, fresh manure can be substituted for compost. If the tea is too strong it can be diluted with water. When ready, the liquid is sprayed or poured onto the plants.

Using finished compost is getting the maximum return from an investment. Whether the organic materials, used to make the compost, were grown or purchased, they are still useful long after they have blossomed or been eaten. Composting makes the time and money spent on the food, lawns and gardens, go further. Not only are nutrients recovered from the waste but finished compost saves money by reducing the need for store-bought soil conditioners, while cutting waste disposal costs.

The bottom line is: compost can save a "pile" of money!