

FAIRMONT PARK ORGANIC RECYCLING CENTER COMPOST RECOMMENDED SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS AND COMPOST USE

Soil Amendment

Dig in 2-4 inches (5-10cm) per year in the spring or at planting time. Apply 1/2 to 3-inches of finished compost and mix with the top 4-inches of soil one month before planting.

Mulch Around Trees & Shrubs

Soil can tend to compact around trees and shrubs, especially in high-traffic areas or those places less tended. Compost can improve the tilth and help retain moisture in the soil. Place the compost around the tree to create a raised ridge and an inside well that can be watered.

Moisture-holding Mulch

Spread around plants, shrubs and trees, as seen in this picture. Apply 2-3 inches on the surface.

Lawn Top-dressing

Spread compost 1/4-inch deep over the entire lawn, or in thin areas, to reseed and rejuvenate turf. Apply annually

Seed Rows in the Garden

Use to cover freshly planted seeds. Mix the compost in a 1:1 ratio with vermiculite to lighten its consistency.

Uses for Well-finished or Screened Compost

House Plants - mix 1 part compost with 2 parts potting soil for houseplants.

General Potting Soil - Mix equal parts of compost, sand and loam. Remove large particles.

Turf and Planting Bed Establishment

Apply compost to a depth of 1-2 inches by hand or by using specialized equipment such as a pneumatic blower or side discharge spreader. Incorporate the compost by hand; by using a backhoe, bulldozer, or grading blade to a depth between 6 and 8 inches. Following incorporation, rake and/or compact the area as directed by the Engineer or Project Manager. The soil surface shall be reasonably free of large clods, roots, stones greater than 2 inches, and other material which will interfere with planting and subsequent site maintenance. Rake soil surface smooth prior to plating or seeding, sprigging, sodding, or hydroseeding. Thoroughly water after planting or seeding.

Tree & Shrub Backfilling

Excavate a planting hole slightly shallower and 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball or container. Set the root ball on firm soil so that the top of the root ball will sit at ground level or slightly higher than the final grade. Uniformly blend the compost and excavated soil at a 2 soil to 1 compost ratio. Backfill and firm the soil blend around the root ball within the planting hole. Thoroughly water after planting

Erosion Control (Note: More detailed use specifications and instructions can be obtained from PennDOT Publication 408, Sections 805, 808, 866 and 867)
<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdDesign.nsf/infoSpecifications>

Filtersock (Sock)

Use high density polyethylene (HDPE) expandable, tubular, biodegradable or photodegradable, 3/8 inch knitted mesh netting fabric sock of 12 -18 inch diameter.

Installation - Fill sock with approved compost at the designated erosion control area or fill and transport to the project site. Fill sock with compost using pneumatic blower equipment designed to blow compost. Tie off ends of the sock. Create filled compost filtersocks to the lengths required. Place filtersock on level contour or surface as indicated. Position the filtersock around the structure or surface to be protected to create a complete physical barrier to intercept any sheet flow of drainage water and allowing sediment to collect on the outside of the sock. Ensure a minimal overlap of at least 300 mm (12 inches) on either side of the area to be protected. Anchor filtersock with approved stakes or other devices capable of holding the sock in place. For bottom of slope installations, position filtersock parallel to the base of the slope to be protected from the toe of slope if possible. Do not place the sock where it will concentrate drainage runoff or channel water to another location. Position each closed end of the sock pointing upslope so that the ends are at a higher elevation than the overall filtersock body.

Maintenance - Maintain compost filtersock until the project has been completed. Routinely inspect filtersock installation for damage that would make the filtersock non-functioning. Repair or replace damaged areas as directed. Remove built-up sediment retained by the filtersock when the sediment reaches 1/3 of the exposed height of the sock. Dispose of sediment as directed. At completion of project, remove filtersock or when directed, leave compost filtersock in place. If directed to leave the sock in place, slit open the sock to expose the compost material.

Compost Blanket

Soil Preparation - Roughen/scarify soil surface with appropriate equipment. Remove and dispose of large unworkable soil clumps, debris, large rocks, and undesirable woody matter such as stumps. Track soil surface before compost application with equipment capable of working perpendicular to the slope gradient in order to create soil indentations that will hold compost. Avoid excessive soil compaction during this operation so that the loosened soil surface remains less than the 97% of dry mass (dry weight) density specified in Section 206.3(b)1 for embankment compaction.

Compost Application - Uniformly apply compost to the specified depth with approved pneumatic (blower) units, or other appropriate equipment designed to handle and distribute compost material. Do not apply compost in direct-flow drainage channels such as ditches or the centerline of swales. Apply compost approximately 3 feet beyond and overlapping all edges of the bare soil surfaces designated to receive the compost.

Application Rate - Surfaces to be seeded up to 2:1 slope – 270 cubic yards/acre or 2 inches depth with $\pm 1/2$ inch tolerance. Surfaces not to be seeded up to 2:1 slope – 540 cubic yards/acre or 4 inches depth with $\pm 1/2$ inch tolerance.

Seeding Designated Areas - Apply seed by injection of the appropriate seed formula into the compost flow stream during the compost application, or apply the seed in a separate surface applied operation.

Maintenance - Maintain compost blanket depth until the project has been completed or directed otherwise. Routinely inspect blanket for any material dislodgement. Replace and redress any dislodged material and reseed if necessary. Control any noxious weeds with approved herbicides meeting the applicable requirements. Leave compost blanket in place upon completion of the project unless directed otherwise.

Compost Filter Berm

Installation - Apply approved compost using specially designed pneumatic (blower) equipment and a berm forming/shaping device, or other appropriate equipment designed to handle compost and form berms. If blower is used, blow compost directly at the soil surface to help settle, compact, and shape the berm. Optional installation technique, inject or add approved compost enhancing additive into the filter berm compost during berm construction at the rate of at least 2.25 pounds per 10 linear feet of berm. Verify calibration of injection system to ensure proper integration and integration rate of the additive. Construct a trapezoidal shaped compost filter berm 2 feet high by 4 feet wide base with 2:1 side slopes. Position the berm around the designated disturbed soil areas and parallel to the slope base. Construct berm ends pointing upslope

so that the ends are at a higher elevation than the berm body to prevent drainage water from flowing around the ends of the berm.

Maintenance - Maintain filter berm in a functional condition. Routinely inspect berm and replace any dislodged compost or reshape any collapsed berm areas. Compost can be replaced by hand and tamped into place. Remove built-up sediment retained by the berm when the sediment reaches 1/3 of the exposed height of the berm. Dispose of sediment as directed. Replace any compost dislodged by this operation. At completion of project or when directed, leave compost in place by pushing over the berm and spreading the compost material over the adjacent ground.