

# Miller Compost



## Using Compost In The Garden

Leaves, grasses, and other plants which fall to the ground slowly decompose and eventually become part of the soil and aid in forming new soil topsoil from mineralized soil. The valuable nutrients that are stored in the dead plant tissue become available to the living plants to use for future growth. This closes the cycle of growth and decay. The natural decomposition of plant tissue that happens in any ecosystem can be accelerated through composting efforts.

In populated areas, leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste can pose waste management problems. In an effort to divert organic materials from being land-filled, municipalities have been actively involved in composting yard waste through various technologies. Through the use of heat, adequate moisture, and oxygen - leaves, grass clippings, and other yard wastes can be converted into an organic, nutrient-rich soil, in a relatively short time.

Composting technologies have existed for many years. On-going research into the utilization of compost has provided valuable information with regards to the benefits of using organic compost as a soil amendment for many different applications.

Organic compost made from municipal yard waste has been shown to have beneficial effects on soil properties and plant production when used as an amendment over traditional practices. Many studies have also shown that organic compost will increase the yield of many crops over that of native soil or other soil amendments such as peat or manure. An appropriate application of organic compost to native soil serves to improve the structural, nutrient, and biological properties of the soil resulting in long-term sustainability.

Traditionally, the agricultural and horticultural communities have relied on soil amendments such as peat to improve the soils organic matter, water holding capacity, as well as for soil aeration. Livestock manure has also been used as a method of adding nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Organic compost made from municipal yard waste has been shown to provide all of the benefits that both peat and manure can provide and much more beneficial attributes that other soil amendments can not compete with.

During the composting process, temperatures inside of the compost piles reach 60° C for a period of at least 15 days. This period of high temperature decomposition serves to destroy weed seeds and harmful pathogens that may be present in some other soil additives.

Research has shown that the addition of compost to native soils can decrease pressures by weeds and other pests, thus greatly reducing the need for herbicides and pesticides, while raising the nutrients for slow release to plants.

For more information please call us toll free at  
1.800.465.5914 or visit [millercompost.ca](http://millercompost.ca)

# COMPOST USE WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Breaks up clay soils
- Reduces erosion
- Helps form soil aggregates
- Increases nutrient availability
- Eases cultivation
- Increases root structure
- Decreases thatch
- Reduces soil compaction
- Improves drought tolerance
- Increases micro-nutrients
- Helps prevent plant diseases
- Increases soil aeration
- Improves soil structure
- Promotes growth of mycorrhiza
- Increases soil microbial population
- Provides slow release of macro-nutrients
- Increases drainage in dense soils
- Dark colour absorbs heat
- Increases cation exchange capacity
- Helps prevent soil crusting
- Increases nutrient cycling
- Increased safety when used on athletic fields
- Makes weed pulling easier
- Increase soil earthworm population

## APPLICATION

## APPROXIMATE USAGE RATES

Common landscape or garden amendment.....	3-5 cm application or 25% of planting mix
Mulching.....	6-8 cm around all landscape plants
Construction mix for new golf courses.....	40-60% depending on application needs
Topdressing mixes.....	60-80% depending on requirements
New turf establishment.....	3-5 cm tilled to a 15 cm depth
Turf renovation.....	1/2-1 cm topdressing after aeration
Planting bed preparation.....	3-5 cm filled into raised beds
Backfill for tree planting.....	30-50% of planting hole volume
Outdoor planter mix.....	30-50% by volume
Soil amendment for many blends.....	20-80 % depending on plant family and specifications
New seeding establishment/upgrading soil.....	3-5 cm disked to 10 cm depth
Erosion control.....	3-5 cm as a mulch
Mulch for tree planting.....	5-8 cm applied evenly
Planting beds for flowers and shrubs.....	3-5 cm tilled into raised beds to 15 cm depth
Daily cover.....	Used to replace soil cover
Establishment of vegetation after closure.....	3-5 cm disked into soil
New seeding establishment.....	3-5 cm disked where possible
Mulch.....	3-5 cm applied evenly
General field soil amendment.....	3-5 cm tilled to 15 cm depth
Specialty crop production.....	3-5 cm tilled to 15 cm depth
Field application as a soil amendment.....	3-5 cm incorporated to 15 cm depth
Band application for shade trees.....	5-7 cm applied evenly in 60 cm wide band
Liner beds-incorporated.....	3-5 cm incorporated pre-plant to 15 cm depth
Liner beds-mulched.....	3-5 cm mulched post-plant
Container Mixes.....	20-60% of volume depending on plants