Compost Use for Improved Soil

**Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control**

- Application to 1:1 Rock Slope
  2” compost mulch with native seed mix
  Austin, TX - August

- 8 Months Later
  2006 Irrigation install, never used

- 8 Months Later
  Sheet flow protection

- Roadkill compost spread Nov 2006
  Highland NY DOT

- March 2007

---

**What is Compost?**

An organic matter resource that has the unique ability to improve the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soils.

- Compost reduces the bulk density of construction damaged soil.

- Compost socks reduce sediment, fertilizers, chemicals, metals and other pollutants from reaching surface water by acting as a filter.

- Compost socks/Filter tubes

---

**Why Use Compost?**

Compost improves soil and controls erosion by:

- Increasing water infiltration into the soil surface.
- Increasing water holding capacity of soil which reduces runoff.
- Reducing soil particle dislodging
- Increasing plant growth and soil cover.
- Buffering soil pH which can increase vegetation establishment and growth.
- Alleviates soil compacting by increasing soil structure.
- New vegetation can be established directly into compost.

**Street Tree Planting**

Use up to 50% compost in tree planting and most horticultural applications

- Three years growth without compost
- Three years growth with compost

**Landscape and Nursery**

- Composts can be top-dressed at a rate of ¼ to ½” on turf to promote aggregation of soil particles, increase porosity and reduce bulk density to make a less compact soil. Use 1 to 2” with incorporation for turf establishment

- Compost adds organic material to build healthy soils where a diverse group of beneficial organisms thrive and helps suppress disease for better growth and health of plantings.

---

**Find your compost here:**

http://compost.css.cornell.edu/maps.html

---

**Cornell Waste Management Institute**

-cwmi.css.cornell.edu