

Lexington County, SC Homegrown

COMPOST Tip Sheet



Thank you for purchasing our nationally certified compost processed from local vegetative and wood debris.

Instructions for Residential Users

1. Blend compost with existing soil.
2. Use between 3 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet (1" thick) and 6 cubic yards per 1,000 square feet (2" thick).
3. Roto-till soil or manually blend the layer of compost with 6" of existing soil. It is best to turnover or breakup the soil first, then apply compost, then mix the compost and loosened soil together.

Instructions for Commercial Users

- Compost can be used to improve soil fertility, reduce irrigation requirements and improve soil structure for vegetated roofs and living walls.
- Using a locally-produced, rapidly-renewable compost product can earn builders credits towards green building certification programs including LEED.
- Because of the beneficial characteristics of compost, the product can be used for many different applications. The table below outlines the popular uses and applications for compost summarized by the US Composting Council (USCC).

Market	Applications & Uses	Approximate Usage Rates
Homeowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common landscape and garden uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" application or 20% by volume
Golf Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction mixes for golf courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% - 20% by volume, depending on application
Sports Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top dressing mixes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/4" – 1/2" after aeration
Landscapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New turf establishment • Turf renovation and top dressing • Planting bed preparation • Mulching • Backfill for tree planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" – 2" tilled to 5" depth • 1/8" – 1/2" top-dressed after aeration • 1" – 2" tilled into raised beds • 2" – 3" evenly applied • 30% by volume
Nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field application as a soil amendment • Band application for shade trees • Liner beds incorporated • Liner beds mulched • Container mixes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" – 2" incorporated 5" deep • 2" applied in two foot bands • 1" – 2" incorporated replant • 1" – 2" mulched post plant • 5% - 40% by volume depending on plants
Topsoil Blenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil amendment for many blends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% - 50% by volume for blends
Roadside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New seed establishment / upgrading soil • Erosion control • Mulch for tree planting • Planting beds at interchanges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" disked to 4" depth • 1" – 2" as a course mulch • 2" – 3" evenly applied • 1" – 2" tilled into raised bed
Landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation establishment during closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" – 2" disked into soil
Silviculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding establishment Mulch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" – 2" disked where possible • 1" – 2" evenly applied
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General field soil amendment • Specialty crop production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1" – 2" incorporated • 1/4" – 2" incorporated or as a mulch

Benefits of Using Compost

Adding compost to soil increases the amount of organic matter, which helps to increase nutrient levels and conserve water. Compost can hold up to 10 times its own weight in water, so it is a very effective tool for water conservation. Many South Carolina soils have an organic matter content of less than 1%. USCC recommends that healthy soils should contain at least 5% organic matter. Using compost is a cost effective and environmentally sound way to increase and maintain these levels. Adding compost to soil improves its physical, chemical and biological properties. Some of the benefits of compost include the following:

- Creates a better plant root environment through the improvement of soil structure, porosity and density
- Reduces erosion and runoff by increasing infiltration and permeability of heavy soils
- Reduces water loss and drought susceptibility by improving water holding capacity of soils
- Supplies macro and micronutrients
- May suppress certain soil-borne plant pathogens
- Supplies significant quantities of organic matter
- Improves soil's ability to hold nutrients for plant use by improving cation exchange capacity
- Improves and stabilizes soil pH
- Can bind and degrade specific pollutants
- Reduced soil compaction and increased root growth
- Increased nutrients and beneficial soil microbes
- Reduced need for fertilizers
- Healthier plants and more rapid growth rate



Not Sure If Compost Is Worth It? Test It.



Before
application of
compost



Six weeks after
application of
compost

Photos printed with permission from Charleston County Government.

Buy Your Lexington County Compost and Mulch Now!

Compost

\$2/bag (approx. 40 lbs) or \$10/ton

Mulch Colored

\$2/bag (2 cu. ft) or \$45/ton

Uncolored \$10/ton



All Items Available Year-Round From:

Lexington County Solid Waste
Management
Edmund Landfill
498 Landfill Lane
Lexington, SC 29073

Mon-Sat, 7 a.m –4 p.m. (close at 4:30 pm)

Bagged Compost & Mulch Available At:

Lexington County Central Stores
415 Ball Park Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072

Mon-Wed-Fri, 8 a.m.–12 noon & 1-4 p.m.

Additional Information Available From

**Lexington County, SC Solid Waste
Management**

<https://lex-co.sc.gov>

(803) 755-3325



and

US Composting Council

<http://compostingcouncil.org>



**US Composting
Council**
Seal of Testing
Assurance™

