



NUTRIENT WISE DEMOS 2012

PRESENTED BY CREEDY ASSOCIATES



GREEN COMPOST OPPORTUNITIES

GREEN WASTE COMPOST FACTSHEET

WHAT IS IT?

Compost results from the process of controlled decomposition of biodegradable materials. There are a variety of different products available, but they come under two main brackets: green waste compost and green plus food waste compost, sometimes also known as animal by-product (ABP).

- **Green waste compost** is composted green waste, largely from municipal garden waste. It is usually composted on the farm where it is used.
- **Green plus food waste compost / ABP** can include animal by-products and food waste. This product is more strictly regulated and is not produced on farm.

Because various different contractors produce these products each varies slightly in terms of their content, stability and the restrictions regulating their use.

NUTRIENT CONTENT

The level of nutrients in the product depends greatly on the inputs. Ask your supplier for a nutrient breakdown. Some standard values from the DEFRA publication RB209 are below.

| Compost type | Dry Matter % | Total N (kgN/t) | Phosphate (kg P ₂ O ₅ / t) | Potash (kg K ₂ O / t) |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Green Compost | 60 | 7.5 | 3.0 | 5.5 |
| Green plus food | 60 | 11 | 3.8 | 8.0 |

| PROS | CONS |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good soil improver as it contains valuable organic matter • Retains moisture • Slow and steady nutrient release • Environmentally sustainable • Cheap to use • Many products can be used on organic farms – see below | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with regulations can be onerous • Products vary in terms of cost, make-up and nutrient value. • Some products are not approved for organic farms • Use is sometimes restricted to those farms within a set range of the plant. |

WHERE CAN I GET IT?

A number of different contractors supply these materials. Check which is closest to you as it may well be cheaper or free, depending on the site. For a full list of suppliers check the WRAP website www.wrap.org.uk. Some suppliers are listed below.

- **Devon Waste Management:** Principally supply Green Compost. Based at Exeter, Newton Abbot, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, Torrington & Honiton. They will manage the composting process, regulatory impacts and spreading calculations

- **Eco-Sci:** Supply both green compost and green/food compost. Both meet PAS100 standards. They are based outside Exeter.
- **Viridor:** Supply and availability varies across their sites which include Broadpath at Tiverton and Newton Abbot.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Costs and charges vary according to the supplier. Some plants pay farmers to remove the product, others charge nominal product costs haulage costs and some charge more.

Devon Green Waste: site dependent. Eco-Sci: Currently £1 / tonne for the product (Farmer pays for haulage and spreading). Viridor: site dependent

RESTRICTIONS

Both types of product must meet certain standards in order to be safe for use on farm. If you choose to use any of the products you should consult your supplier to ensure you meet all the regulations.

- The Pas100 standard is the standard for quality compost in the UK. Composts that have passed this standard have fewer restrictions on their use.
- Currently all compost must be used on farm in accordance to the **Quality Compost Protocol**.
- If a product does not meet the **PAS100 standard** you will require an Environment Agency **Waste Spreading Permit**.
- Current regulations require farmers **to soil test** every five years and use these results and cropping history to calculate **spreading rates**. The regulations are due to change in July, but it is still good practice to soil test.
- Some products are subject to the **Animal By-product Regulations** which includes the stipulation that a three week gap must be left between application and grazing.
- **Organic Farmers:** Some PAS100 standard products can be used on organic farms, but not all. Some non-PAS100 products are also compliant with organic rules, as long as their origin can be traced. You should obtain details of the product you wish to use and check with your certification body before using any product. .

MORE INFORMATION

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13558-cogap-090202.pdf>

Devon Waste Management - <http://devonwaste.co.uk/> (01392 826444)

Eco-Sci - <http://www.ecosci.co.uk/> (01392 441093)

Viridor - <http://www.viridor.co.uk/contact.php> (tel. depends on site)

NVZ ISSUES

Composts are organic manures that contains nitrogen. Therefore if you are in an NVZ you must include all compost applications in your ORGANIC MANURE FIELD LIMIT ensuring that you do not go over the limit of 250KgN/ha from organic manures in any 12 month period.

Usually composts do not contain livestock manure so you do not currently have to include compost applications in your Nmax calculation although this may be reviewed in the near future. Usually composts do not contain livestock manure so do not have to be included in your Livestock Manure N Farm Limit.

BGS Nutrient Wise Demos are part of the South West Agricultural Resource Management (SWARM) Knowledge Hub www.swarmhub.co.uk , which is a SW RDA initiative, managed by Duchy College Rural Business School, and funded through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).



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