

COMPOST IN VITICULTURE

*Premium Compost
right here in the
Goulburn Valley*



Get the Back 2 Earth Edge

Incorporate into the soil
or as a mulch

ARE YOU LOOKING TO

- Reduce input costs (fertiliser, herbicides, pesticides and water)
- Increase nutrient availability and soil fertility
- Suppress weed germination and growth
- Improve soil structure, soil organic matter and carbon levels
- Conserve moisture and improve water infiltration
- Increase plant health and long-term sustainability

COMPOST AT PLANTING

Getting your vines off to a great start provides many financial benefits, whether compost is used as a mulch or composted into the soil at planting, leading to;

- Enhanced root development
- Increased overall plant growth
- Increase in trunk diameter
- Increase in yield (numbers per bunch)

As a Mulch

Mulch Case Study: McLaren Flats, SA¹

Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon

Age at mulching: 12 months

Soil type: Deep 'Springs Sand'

Application: 75mm of coarse compost, 1m wide undervine v's control (no mulch)

	Harvest Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Yield* kg/vine	No Mulch	0.7	4.9	4.7	7.0	11.7
	Mulch	2.5	7.7	6.3	8.7	14.8

Mulched area benefits

- 70% increase in shoot length after 6 weeks
- 40% increase in yield over trial period
- Reduced water usage – further financial savings

*Source: Buckerfield and Webster (2003) Composted organic wastes for soil rehabilitation: Final report to the Natural Heritage Trust, Canberra



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Incorporated into Soil

Trials reported by Compost for Soils² show a significant increase in vine growth and water infiltration when compost is incorporated into the soil at planting.



Application Rate:

85m³/ha to a depth of 20cm producing a soil concentration around 20-25%.

Benefits:

- Taller vines
- Increased water infiltration
- Improved soil structure

With infiltration rates (mm/hr) doubling with compost incorporation and mulching compared to control areas.

Avoid Compaction:

Apply 5-20 t/ha to renovated soils to help avoid compaction and improve soil structure, improving root length, and mound stabilisation.

More Research

Research from the Recycled Organics Unit⁴ into compost mulch used in Vineyards in NSW report.

Benefit	Benefit Range
Reduced Weed Growth*	60% - 100%
Reduces irrigation water use and reduces risk of crop failure*	Greater than 30%
Reduces soil temperature fluctuations*	Up to 3°C
*Presence of long-term mulch cover to a depth of 10cm	

Benefits of Compost in Vineyards

Using mulch in your vineyard can produce many benefits, such as those reported by The Australian Wine Industry³

- Improved nutrient availability, including essential minerals
- Improved soil structure, including aeration
- Increased water infiltration & moisture-holding capacity
- Stabilise soil temperature
- Increase soil biology
- Reduced reliance on pesticides
- Weed suppression
- Increased organic matter



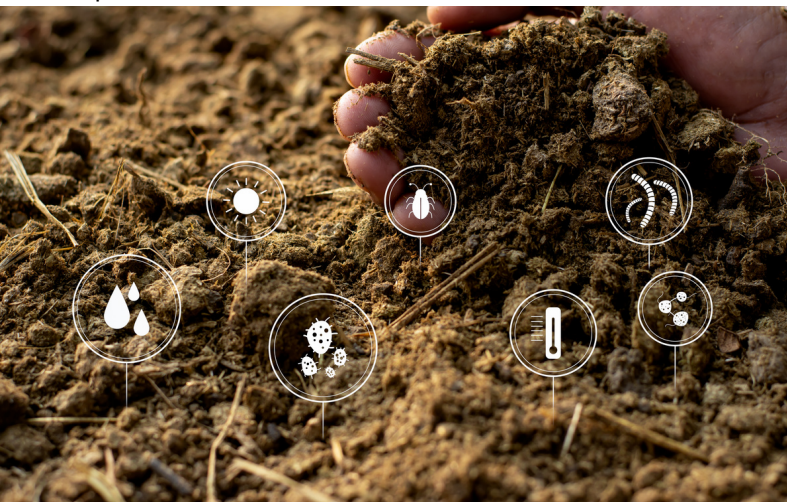
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The Role of Biology

When plants are photosynthesising they leak exudates (carbohydrates) into the soil, these exudates feed the life in the soil (bacteria and fungi etc) and in exchange for these exudates the soil microbes gather nutrients for the plant. Biologically diverse soils create a healthy environment, producing healthier plants better able to cope with the pressures from frost, heat, pests and diseases. Compost not only provides a source of microbes, but it also feeds your underground workforce, building soil organic matter, therefore soil carbon, and ultimately improving water retention to create more resilient soils for long-term soil and plant health.



Quality compost contains microbes such as bacteria, fungi and protozoa, along with microorganisms such as mites, centipedes and worms. Compost helps regulate soil temperature, increases water infiltration and helps soil retain moisture.

Sample Analysis

Sample analysis with EAL (Environmental Analysis Laboratory)

Back 2 Earth Compost;

- Meets the Australian AS4454 standards for compost
- Compost is safely below the contaminants guidelines and is safe to use on farm
- Contains good organic matter and humus levels, which will help stabilise soils, stimulate biology and improve water-holding capacity
- Contains a full spectrum of macro and micro nutrients to promote plant growth
- Average Nitrogen content **1.29%** - well above the AS4454 guideline of 0.8%
- Average Estimated Organic Matter content - **27.8%**

Why Back 2 Earth Composting

Back 2 Earth Composting is located in Kotupna in northern Victoria. Our family business produces premium horticulture / agricultural grade composts on our organic farm.

Our thorough composting procedure and monitoring ensure the minimal likelihood of weeds and contamination, delivering a consistent quality compost to improve the health of your most important asset – your soil.

We are passionate about soil health and agriculture, recycling organic materials and green waste to build sustainable food production systems and viable family farms.

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References:

1. Compost for Apple & Pear Orchard Establishment, Compost for Soils 2011 www.compostforsoils.com.au
2. May 2021, Primefact 21/281 Using Compost in macadamia orchards, second edition, replaces Agnote DPI-472 Abigail Jenkins, Development Officer – Soils Unit, Wollongbar Jeremy Bright, Development Officer – Macadamia, Wollongbar.
3. Interim Product Specifications and Application Guidelines for Compost Mulches for Orchard Production in NSW. Recycled Organics Unit Summary Specifications, February 2004

CONTACT US

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🌐 www.back2earthcomposting.com.au

PRODUCTS

**Premium Horticulture Grade
Compost**

\$44 / m³ (inc GST)

Fungi Power Compost

(25% compost 75% wood)

\$15 / m³ (inc GST)

