Compost Use for Improved Soil

Roadsides, Street Trees and Medians

What is Compost?

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

Compost reduces bulk density and improves aggregation

Before compost addition

After compost addition

Why Use Compost?

- Long-term soil conditioning benefits
- Higher rate of plant germination and establishment
- Protection from erosion
- Keep seeds in place, even on steep slopes
- New vegetation can be established directly into compost

Roadkill compost spread Nov 2006
Highland NY DOT

Roadside vegetation acts as a buffer and manages storm water to prevent flooding and erosion

March 2007

Compost application on slope above waterway in Brooktondale NY

November 2016

April 2017

April 2017

June 2017

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

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.

Street Tree Planting

Use up to 50% compost in tree planting

Three years growth without compost

Three years growth with compost

Photo credit: City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/199748

Compost, soil and plants slow, filter and cleanse storm water from streets removing up to 90% of pollutants.

Find your compost here: http://compost.css.cornell.edu/maps.html

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Cornell Waste Management Institute – cwmi.css.cornell.edu

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