

GENERAL COMPOST USES



Spring is a great time to use compost in your garden and prepare for future planting. In the springtime:

- Prepare flowerbeds a month before planting by mixing 1" or 2" of compost into the top 6" or 8" of soil.
- Get ready to plant new lawns by rototilling 2" compost into the top 6" of soil before seeding.
- Get indoor seedlings ready for transfer by planting them in containers with 1 part compost to 4 parts soil.



Using compost in the summer can reduce watering needs. Here are a couple suggestions to maximize water retention during the hot summer months:

- Topdress established lawns with 1/4" of compost.
- Topdress existing trees and shrubs with 1/2" of compost.
- Side dress plants by applying a 1/4" layer of compost around the base of plants, not directly to. This will retain moisture in the soil and allow for a slow release of nutrients.



Autumn is the best time to use compost in your garden. By using compost in Autumn you can prepare your garden for overwintering and have it ready for spring thaw. In the Autumn:

- After removing finished plants from a garden plot, mix 1"-2" of compost with soil for over-wintering and to restore nutrients.
- Plant bulbs and tubers in 1 part compost to 4 parts soil.
- After aerating lawns for Fall, apply a thin 1/4" layer of compost that will work into soil slowly over winter months.



Winter doesn't need to stop your composting use! Try:

- Using 1 part compost to 4 parts soil for indoor potted plants.
- Brew "Compost Tea" by soaking leftover or extra compost from the growing season in water for 3-4 days. Once tea is ready, steep mixture into another bucket and place the remaining solids in your garden or composter. Can be used as a foliar spray on indoor plants, potted plants, or around root systems. It is important to apply immediately for optimal absorption.



Where Can I Get Compost?

- You can buy compost at the Summerland Sanitary Landfill. It is the end product of Summerland's Waste Water Treatment plan and is environmentally safe to use.
- From a local gardening store, nursery, farm, or hardware store. Be sure to ask about the composition to make sure its right for your gardening needs.
- You can make your own at home! For more information on how to compost at home, visit the RDOS website.

Benefits of Using Compost:

- Can prevent soil erosion and stabilize soil banks.
- Retains moisture and reduces irrigation needs.
- It is virtually pollution-free and diverts waste out of landfills.
- Has the necessary minerals and nutrients for healthy plant growth.
- Helps plants withstand pests and disease due to better health.
- Releases nutrients at a stable, slow rate for optimal plant growth.
- Reduces the number of gardening products needed, which saves money.

