

## What is green compost and why should I use it?

Green compost is a natural product made by mixing, stacking and turning biodegradable materials under managed conditions. The compost sold by The Green Waste Company from its Splattenridden and Higher Brynn recycling sites has been made from a mixture of plant materials recycled from parks, gardens and households. This compost has been processed under controlled conditions to produce a high quality product, as defined by the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification 100:2011 (BSI PAS 100:2011).

### Potential benefits of using compost

Organic matter in soil is essential for good soil structure, water holding properties, microbial activity and soil health. Composts can be used to add organic matter to soils and to increase production through a range of benefits as follows:

Compost benefits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduced need for bagged fertilisers</li> <li>• reduced nutrient leaching</li> <li>• increased yielding potential</li> <li>• potential to improve drainage in heavier soils</li> <li>• improved water-holding in light soils</li> <li>• reduced erosion risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better soil structure leading to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- greater workability of the soil</li> <li>- increased traffic tolerance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• beneficial soil microorganisms aid:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- soil aggregation</li> <li>- nutrient recycling</li> <li>- plant disease suppression</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

In addition to providing valuable organic matter to soils, composts act as slow release fertilisers for N and P and provide a readily available source of K. Other nutrients, including Mg, S and trace elements are also provided. The efficiency of inorganic N fertiliser use by plants has been shown to be improved following compost application, due to better overall nutrient supply and improved rooting environment. Compost can also provide a valuable source of calcium and has a small liming effect. It has up to 10% of the neutralising value of lime on a dry matter basis.

### Green compost produced by The Green Waste Company

Compost made by The Green Waste Company at its two sites will vary slightly from batch to batch, but as a general rule, it has the following characteristics.

Green Compost (The Green Waste Company) - typical values for important properties		
Compost parameter	Reported in fresh compost as (units of measure)	Typical value
pH	pH units (1:5 water extract)	8.3
Moisture content	%	39
Organic matter content	%	14
Screen aperture size	mm	20
C:N ratio	ratio (between % carbon and nitrogen)*	14.5
Electrical conductivity	µS/cm @ 20°C	925
Total nitrogen	kg/tonne (or units/tonne)	9.0 (18.0)
Total phosphate	"	3.3 (6.6)
Total potash	"	4.9 (9.8)
Total magnesium (MgO)	"	4.3 (8.6)
Total sulphur (SO <sub>3</sub> )	"	2.4 (4.8)

\*This ratio is a measure of the likelihood that N will be rendered temporarily unavailable to plants following compost application. If the ratio is >15:1, this may happen in the first year of application.

### Safe handling and use

Every effort has been made to ensure that this compost contains no sharp fragments, toxins, weed seeds or regenerative plant parts. However, the compost producer cannot guarantee that they will never be present. As with all products of this type, wear gloves when handling and wash hands after use. During handling, avoid inhaling any dust or water vapour or droplets from it, or ingesting any of it.