

Top 10 Reasons to Use Mushroom Compost in Landscaping & Lawn Care

- 1 Suppresses sporulation of the artillery fungus in landscape mulch.
- 2 Decrease or eliminate the cost of liming by using a low cost, consistently high quality organic fertilizer of Mushroom Compost.
- 3 Restore soil structure by improving soil quality, nutrient content and beneficial soil microbe population and activity.
- 4 Improve water retention during drought conditions and in poor soils.
- 5 Mushroom Compost's organic nutrient values are verifiably consistent and available year round.
- 6 It is sustainable agriculture and a good environmental stewardship practice, providing a nutrient rich soil amendment in a complete ecological recycling process.
- 7 Addition of compost reverses soil organic matter depletion, providing improved turfgrass and plant production.
- 8 Composting stabilizes nitrogen and reduces nitrate leaching.
- 9 Improved water infiltration in clay soils.
- 10 Mushroom Compost is a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) accepted fertilizer and PA Preferred product.
(www.agriculture.state.pa.us/papREFERRED)

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www.mushroomcompost.org

Commercial Applications that Include Mushroom Compost

- ✓ Mine reclamation projects
- ✓ Wetland material
- ✓ Storm water management basins
- ✓ Stream retrofit material
- ✓ Highway site remediation
- ✓ Parking lot islands
- ✓ Green roofs
- ✓ Filtration socks
- ✓ Compost blankets
- ✓ Erosion control
- ✓ Filters heavy metals

Relative Value of Fresh Mushroom Compost To Commercial Fertilizers

Numbers are calculated from a wet volume basis.

1 ton MC

(equivalent to 3.5 cubic yards)

Nitrogen (N) = 22.27 lbs/ton

Phosphate (P₂O₅) = 13.29 lbs/ton

Potash (K₂O) = 24.70 lbs/ton

Applying Mushroom Compost to Landscaping & Lawns



WHAT IS MUSHROOM COMPOST?

Often referred to as Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS), Mushroom Compost is the composted result of a rich growth medium for mushrooms. It is made from agricultural materials, such as hay, straw, straw horse bedding, poultry litter, cottonseed meal, cocoa shells and gypsum. Sphagnum peat moss adds to the organic nature of the substrate, providing a consistent, formulated and homogeneous product.

After mushrooms are harvested, the Mushroom Compost is steam treated prior to removal to eliminate any pest, pathogens and weed seeds resulting in a PDA accepted fertilizer product.

Mushroom Compost has high water and nutrient holding capacity and exhibits no nitrogen draw down problems. As a fertilizer and organic soil amendment, Mushroom Compost supports plant growth in a variety of applications to the lawn and landscape and inhibits Artillery Fungus.

Using Mushroom Compost for Lawn Establishment

New Lawns: Fall is the best time to seed new lawns and the best time to incorporate Mushroom Compost into your seeding plan. Prepare the seed area by covering with 1 - 2 inches (or 3 - 6 cubic yards per 1,000 feet) of Mushroom Compost, till into the soil to a depth of 4 - 6 inches for maximum benefit.

Sow the grass seed uniformly over the soil surface at a rate and recommended use for your seed. Cover the grass seed with another 1/4 to 1/2 inch layer of Mushroom Compost (approximately 1 - 2 cubic yards per 1,000 feet). Rake the area lightly to ensure good seed-soil contact. Water well.

Post seeding care only requires daily watering to keep the soil uniformly moist until the new grass seedlings have reached 1 1/2 inches in height, which is typically about three weeks after emergence.



Mean of Parameters Measured/Calculated On a Wet Volume Basis:

bulk density	574.73 lbs/yd ³	
pH	6.62	
C:N (carbon-to-nitrogen) ratio	12.79 : 1	
soluble salts (1:5 w:w)	13.27 mmhos/cm	
	lbs/yd ³	%
solids	243.37	42.35
moisture	331.47	57.67
organic matter	146.73	25.53
carbon (C)	81.13	14.12
total nitrogen (N)	6.40	1.12
organic nitrogen (Organic-N)	6.19	1.08
ammonium nitrogen (NH ₄ -N)	0.21	0.04
phosphorus as P ₂ O ₅	3.82	0.67
potassium as K ₂ O	7.10	1.24
calcium (Ca)	13.17	2.29
magnesium (Mg)	2.01	0.35
sulfur (S)	4.91	0.85
iron (Fe)	1.07	0.19
manganese (Mn)	0.12	0.02
copper (Cu)	0.04	0.01
sodium (Na)	0.67	0.12
aluminum (Al)	0.89	0.15
zinc (Zn)	0.05	0.01

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What Essential Plant Nutrients are in Mushroom Compost?

From 30 random samples of fresh Mushroom Compost, Dr. Michael Fidanza, Associate Professor of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State University (Reading, PA), published these results.

Sod

The soil preparation should be prepared as for new lawns. The soil should be moistened before sod is laid. After laying sod, uniformly apply 1/2 inch Mushroom Compost on the seams for improved rooting.

Established Lawns

Renew an older lawn using Mushroom Compost. Spike the lawn for aeration, uniformly spread about 1/2 inch layer of Mushroom Compost over the lawn's surface, spread seed and work into the lawn. A flexible rake is a perfect tool. Water thoroughly and often until the seed germinates.

Flowers Shrubs & Trees

Use Mushroom Compost as a soil amendment when planting flowers, shrubs and trees. No other fertilizer is needed in the first year.

Artillery Fungus

Artillery Fungus lives in wood mulch and shoots black spores toward light surfaces, such as buildings, siding and cars. According to research studies at Penn State University by Dr. Donald Davis, when mushroom compost is mixed with mulch in proportions of just 20 to 50 percent, the Artillery Fungus is inhibited.

