



Summit County Resource Allocation Park

High Country Compost
(Summit County Landfill)

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Compost Use & Application Instructions

Quick Facts...

- Soil amendments improve the physical properties of soils.
- Amendments are mixed into the soil. Mulches are placed on the soil surface.
- The best soil amendments increase water and nutrient holding capacity, and improve aeration and water infiltration.
- Wood products can tie up nitrogen in the soil.

A soil amendment is any material added to a soil to improve its physical properties, such as water retention, permeability, water infiltration, drainage, aeration and structure. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots. To do its work, an amendment must be thoroughly mixed into the soil. If it is merely buried, its effectiveness is reduced, and it will interfere with water and air movement and root growth.

Factors to Consider When Choosing an Amendment

There are at least four factors to consider in selecting a soil amendment:

- How long the amendment will last in the soil.
- Soil texture.
- Soil salinity and plant sensitivities to salts.
- Salt content and pH of the amendment.

Laboratory tests can determine the salt content, pH and organic matter of organic amendments. The quality of bulk organic amendments for large-scale landscape uses can then be determined.

Longevity of the Amendment

The amendment you choose depends on your goals.

- Are you trying to improve soil physical properties quickly? Choose an amendment that decomposes rapidly.
- Do you want a long-lasting improvement to your soil? Choose an amendment that decomposes slowly.
- Do you want a quick improvement that lasts a long time? Choose a combination of amendments

- **Sod Preparation** - Blend compost with existing soil. Use between 3 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (1" thick) to a maximum of 6 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (2" thick). Roto-till soil, disc, or manually blend this layer of compost with 6" of existing soil. It is best to mix soil first, then apply compost, then mix compost and loosened soil again.
- **Seed Bed Preparation** - Blend compost with existing soil. Use between 1-1/2 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (1/2" thick) to a maximum of 3 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (1" thick). Roto-till, disc, or manually blend this layer of compost with 6" of existing soil. It is best to mix soil first, then apply compost, then mix compost and loosened soil again.
- **Backfilling Trees** - one part of compost with 3 parts of native soil and backfill around root ball.
- **Vegetable Gardens & Flower Beds** - Blend compost with existing soil. Use between 3 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (1" thick) to a maximum of 6 cubic yards per 1000 square feet (2" thick). Roto-till, disc, or manually blend this layer of compost with 6" of existing soil. It is best to mix soil first, then apply compost, then mix compost and loosened soil again.
- **Bedding Plants** - Spread 1/8 to 1/4" of compost evenly on top of soil, mix into the soil, and then water thoroughly.
- **House Plants** - Spread 1 tablespoon per 6" pot or about 1/8" of compost evenly over the top of the soil and water. Repeat every six months or when required.



Summit County Resource Allocation Park's compost is a United States Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Product.

