



Compost Amendments:
Improve plant survival



Mulching with Compost



Agresource Podcast



2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Another spring has sprung in the Northeast. Ski slopes are shutting down and golf courses are opening up. The snow for most of the region has fully melted and we've seen some days where you can be outside comfortably with out a jacket. Although we've had some cool nights, the grass is starting to green up and birds chirping outside. In this edition we will discuss using compost for your spring activities such as mulching and back fill planting. Not just aesthetically pleasing, but boosting the overall health and survival rate of plants. We also introduce the Agresource Podcast which will make a regular appearance on our website and social platforms going forward. We are ready to get the season rolling and wish all the best of success in 2019.

Check us out on Twitter (@Agresource_Inc), Facebook, Instagram (@wholecyclemgmt) and LinkedIn (Agresource Inc) for updates on what we and the industry as a whole are up to. Discover more about all that Agresource can offer anytime at www.agresourceinc.com

Agresource Inc.
110 Boxford Rd.
Rowley, MA 01969

Compost Amendments Can Improve Plant Survival

Agresource customers have reported that compost amendments have resulted in increased survival of new plantings. Increased plant survival rates are a significant cost savings benefit to contractors by eliminating the need to return to the job site and replace plant material.

Poor survival of newly planted or transplanted plantings can be due to a number of factors including injury to root systems due to poor handling or improper planting procedures. Particularly with larger trees and woody plants, roots are damaged or lost in the transplanting process. Root loss has a direct impact on the ability of the newly planted specimen to absorb water and nutrients and is a major factor responsible for poor survival.

Successful plant establishment thus is dependent on the rapid growth of new root systems. Two factors that can have a major negative impact on root growth are inadequate soil moisture and soil compaction. Compost amended soils have increased water holding capacity and lower compaction; lower bulk density and increased porosity. Therefore planting into a high quality soil with adequate organic matter will facilitate regeneration of new root systems and improve chances that new plants will survive stresses of transplanting. Where soil is compacted due to construction activities it is

particularly critical to restore soil air space by adding compost.

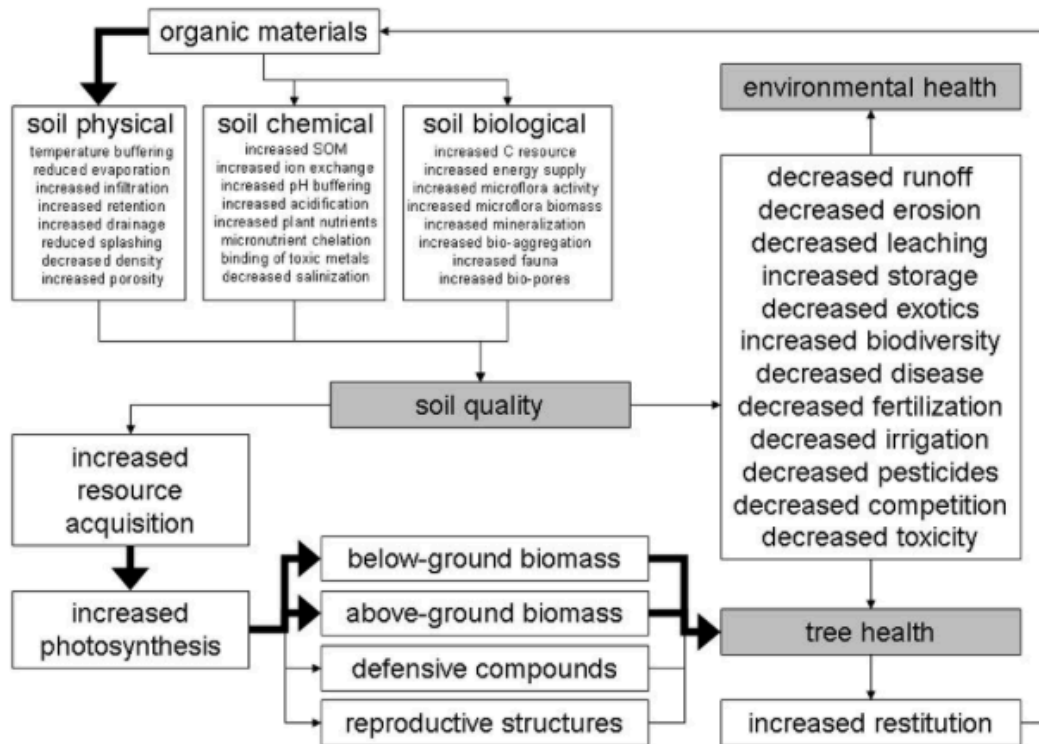


Compost amendments have a variety of beneficial effects on soil quality. The numerous impacts of using organic amendments to improve soil properties and plant health were reviewed by Bryant C.

Scharenbroch (Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, 2009. 35: 221–

231). As shown in the diagram below from that article, organic amendments have positive impacts on soil physical, chemical and biological properties and in turn improve soil quality, tree health and environmental health.

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Utilizing Compost as a Mulch

More and more we are hearing from customers who are using compost as a mulch in perennial planting beds, vegetable gardens, and around the base of trees and shrubs planted throughout the landscape. When compared with using a traditional wood or bark mulch there has been evidence to support the benefits of mulching with compost as an alternative to wood mulch.

Compared to wood mulch, compost mulch has a lower Carbon to Nitrogen (C:N) ratio making nutrients more available to plants which can result in increased plant growth and overall health. The nutrients delivered to plants by compost mulch can offset the need for additional fertilizer applications which can result in cost savings to contractors and their customers.

Compost mulch will increase pore space, water holding capacity, microbial activity, and organic matter content in existing soils which improves soil structure, reduces water use, and improves plant resistance to disease.

If you require the aesthetic look of wood mulch and would also like the added benefits of compost, consider using a thicker base layer of compost with a thin layer of wood mulch on top. Wood mulch and compost can be combined into a blend that has the traditional look of wood with the added benefits of compost.



Agresource's "Performance Mulch" or compost mulch is ready for your Spring mulching needs. Feel free to contact us directly to discuss the benefits of compost as a mulch and how it can benefit you and your customers.

Agresource Podcast

Log on and listen with the hosts Dana Spaulding and Mike Carignan as they discuss Green Industry trends, learn more about the employees of Agresource and how they got to where they are and also dive into some product details. What are different types of compost, engineered soils and Green Infrastructure, the use of organics in biofilters and living walls, etc. We hope that this will be a fun and enjoyable listen for all of our customers and anyone who is interested in the Green Industry and organic waste recycling. We will be looking for industry professionals to jump into the conversation, let us know if you are interested in being a part of the podcast in the future. You can find the podcast on our website under the resources tab and in the future on our YouTube page, search Agresource Inc.



Sand Based Structural Soil

Canal Plaza in Portland, ME underwent a makeover with multiple urban tree plantings set under paved areas.

Completed Summer 2017

Sand based structural soils are highly engineered to be used in urban tree planting environments. Soils that are placed beneath pavement or in confined spaces face stressed conditions from day one of the project. Providing a soil media that has a high infiltration rate and aeration capacity are key to the success of the tree in a confined space. Reducing the ability for the soil to compact and controlling the organic material used in the soil will create favorable conditions for healthy soil biology.

Canal Plaza, located in downtown Portland, ME sits between three large commercial buildings and sees foot traffic from employees and visitors to the area each day. Four large tree pits were installed

