



WWW.CIWMB.CA.GOV/ORGANICS/FARMING

GROWERS AND RESEARCHERS TOUT THE BENEFITS OF COMPOST & MULCH

"After 20 years of growing grapes, using compost for nutrient management is by far the most effective thing that we've done."

JACK PANDOL
PANDOL & SONS
DELANO

"Preliminary results show Phytophthora damage is reduced in avocado groves receiving applications of mulch."

DR. JOHN MENGE
PLANT PATHOLOGIST
UC RIVERSIDE

"We're raising the biggest watermelons we've ever raised!"

DALE RUMBLE
C.J. RUMBLE & SONS
MODESTO

"Greenwaste wood chips give good weed control."

CLYDE ELMORE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISOR
UC DAVIS



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Organic Materials Management Section
8800 Cal Center Drive MS 23
Sacramento CA 95826



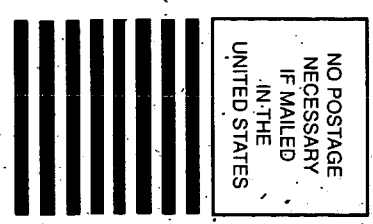
Build and Protect Your Soil...

WITH COMPOST AND MULCH!

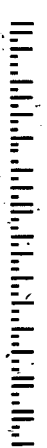
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 5232 SACRAMENTO, CA
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Organic Materials Management Program MS 23
CA Integrated Waste Management Board
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-9843



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



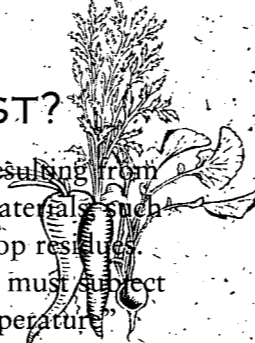
COMPOST AND MULCH CAN BUILD AND PROTECT YOUR SOIL IN MANY WAYS!

IT CAN...

- *Improve soil tilth and crumb structure/friability.*
- *Add beneficial microorganisms.*
- *Provide a source of slow-release nutrients, including micronutrients that may not be in your soil fertility program.*
- *Improve water retention.*
- *Improve cation exchange capacity, which translates to better nutrient-holding capacity.*
- *Suppress selected diseases, such as Phytophthora.*
- *Control erosion.*
- *Suppress weeds.*

WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is a soil amendment resulting from the decomposition of organic materials such as leaves, grass, manure, and crop residues. Commercial compost producers must subject the material to a "time and temperature" process that kills pathogens and weed seeds. Compost is usually incorporated into the soil.



WHAT IS MULCH?

Mulch is ground-up yard trimmings and/or wood chips. It is usually applied in a layer to the top of the soil and is not tilled in. Mulch is commonly used for erosion control and for weed suppression.

Both compost and mulch can complement other soil additives and management practices, such as fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and cover crops.

HOW DO I FIND COMPOST AND MULCH THAT MEET MY NEEDS?

To locate compost and mulch suppliers, request a copy of the "Compost & Mulch Source List" by either calling the California Integrated Waste Management Board's Organic Materials Management Program at (916) 255-2410 or checking its Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/farming.

Ask producers what they use as feedstock. Producers registered with the California Compost Quality Council (CCQC) are required to disclose feedstock and other product characteristics. Most producers will provide you with a lab analysis of their products upon request.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I USE?

Talk with other growers in your area, farm advisors, and compost producers to get information about typical application rates for your type of crop. Your own rate will depend on the purpose of the application, your crop needs, analyses of your soil, and the material to be applied.

WHAT ABOUT MAKING MY OWN COMPOST?

Making your own compost can help you manage crop residues. You can also add yard trimmings to your own material to produce a greater amount of product and increase its microbial diversity. Many commercial producers will grind yard trimmings and sell them to farmers. You could also arrange for commercial landscapers in your area to deliver yard trimmings to your farm.

A grower who brings in material from non-agricultural sources must notify the local enforcement agency, usually the county environmental health department, of their operation. Check out the composting regulations at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/farming.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Check out the "Farming Outlook" Web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/farming. Or send in the attached card or call (916) 255-2410.



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Send in this card for additional information!

Name: _____

Ranch/Farm Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My crops: _____ Acreage: _____

I now use the following (check all that apply):

- Compost Mulch Manure Cover Crops

May we send you a more detailed survey about compost/mulch use? Yes No

Check items you would like to receive:

- Compost/Mulch Source List
 "Two Green Thumbs Up" Video (Northern California compost in agriculture demonstration projects)
 Fact Sheets on Compost and Mulch Use Demonstration Projects
 Composting Regulations
 On-Farm Composting Handbook (subject to availability)
 California Compost Quality Council Brochure