

# Create a Sustainable Landscape...

With Certified Compost Products. Be confident you are purchasing a quality compost product. Look for the Certified Compost logo when purchasing your mulch, soil or soil conditioner and naturally improve the sustainability and health of your landscape.



- Save water
- Reduce weeds
- Reduce fertilizer use
- Manage nutrient run off
- Improve soil & plant health
- Free from weeds, seeds & disease causing pathogens



**NOT ALL COMPOST PRODUCTS ARE CREATED EQUAL**

**Building upon the existing Australian Standards (AS4454), the Compost Product Certification Scheme, enables you to identify quality compost products that are specifically designed to meet your requirements. Certified Products are represented by the Leaf Brand. Under the scheme products are independently certified, which includes: registering application specific products; auditing of composting processes; and, laboratory testing of compost products. Be confident you are purchasing a quality compost product designed to meet your needs.**

Compost Products including composted mulches, composted soil conditioners, compost rich blended soils are commonly used in a range of landscaping applications. The applications range from commercial projects and major developments to highway landscaping and urban renewal projects. These products offer significant environmental benefits, such as improved plant growth; provision of essential nutrients; reduces irrigation requirements; improves the drought tolerance of plants; suppresses weeds; reduces erosion; and improves soil structure, water retention, infiltration and drainage.

### **Benefits of Composted Mulches**

- Reduces irrigation requirements by up to 70%, mainly by reducing evaporation of water from exposed soil surfaces.
- Helps hold water and reduce leaching loss, and improves the drought resistance of plants. These benefits can be significant in areas that do not receive irrigation.
- Physically protects soils from the erosive forces of wind and rain.
- Reduces soil erosion by more than 90% on slopes of up to 15%.
- Runoff can be reduced by more than 70%.

### **Benefits of Composted Soil Conditioners**

- Adds organic matter to the soil improving soil structure, water infiltration, and water holding capacity of the soil.
- Turf grown with the application of composted soil conditioner can require up to 30% less water.
- Assists in plant growth and vegetation establishment, which is critical for long-term erosion control and site stabilisation.
- Soil erosion can be reduced by up to 30%.
- Slowly releases essential macro and micronutrients for plant growth reducing the use of mineral fertilizers by up to 30% and making mineral fertilizer programs more effective.

**“Over the last 10 years compost has boomed in popularity with US Departments of Transports for both erosion control and vegetation establishment. We’ve just started playing with compost and the initial results are promising, with survival and growth improved over the last summer at one of our more difficult sites. Compost is looking like it will play a crucial role on our harsh roadsides with compacted clay soils in the future.”**

**Scott Watson**

**Senior Horticulture Officer  
VicRoads**

### **Cost Savings Example**

Using composted mulches and composted soil conditioners in landscaping projects can result in savings in water used for irrigation. For example, a council in Southern Sydney uses bore water for irrigation. Due to costs of sinking bores, many street side plantings and ornamental streetscapes, as well as a number of smaller parks (turf and garden beds) are watered with water trucks (capacity of 1,500 to 6,000 litres/per truck) that are filled with bore water from larger parks where bores have been sunk. Council operates three water trucks, each staffed by two garden maintenance personnel. Use of mulches, organic top dressings, and soil conditioners (for turf establishment) could reduce irrigation requirements by at least 40%. This would remove the need for one of these trucks, saving all associated operating costs (more than \$100,000 per year). There will also be savings from reduced purchase of water where potable supply is used for irrigation.

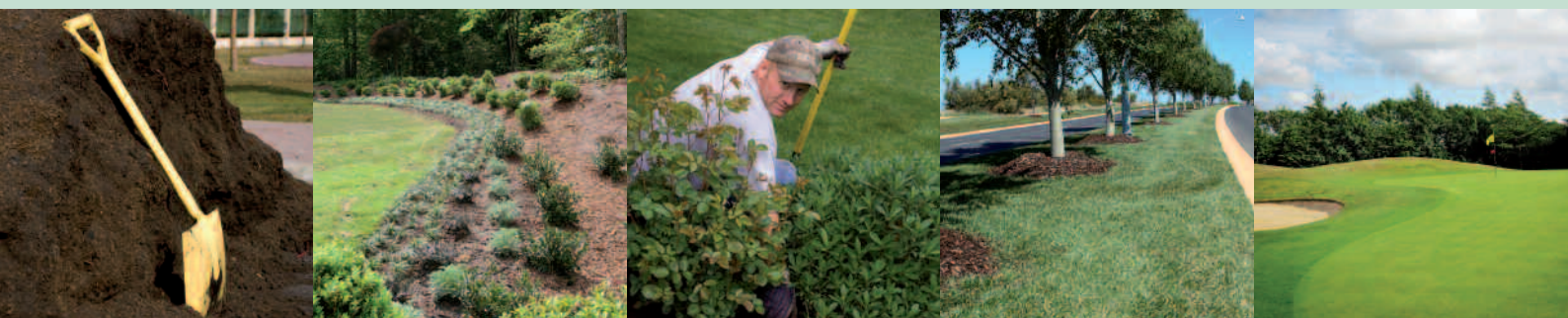
### **The Application Guide**

The application of compost products are critical to their success and the results they deliver. Any product that is certified under the Compost Products Certification scheme will be accompanied by a comprehensive Application Guide which is independently reviewed as part of the certification process. Under the certification scheme the application guide must include information which is specific to each product about how to apply, when to apply, what soil types the product is suitable for and the climatic conditions for application.

**A list of suppliers who stock Certified Compost Products can be found at:**

**[www.certifiedcompost.com.au/suppliers](http://www.certifiedcompost.com.au/suppliers)**

Reference – DEC NSW “Sustainable Landscaping Using Compost Material” Fact Sheet



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