

Benefits of recycled organics

Recycled Organics (RO) products are used to add organic matter to soil. RO products can significantly improve soil and plant health, can improve the establishment and growth of plants, and also help reduce pressures on the environment by closing the recycling loop.

Increased levels of soil organic matter help:

- Increase soil nutrient levels;
- Improve soil moisture levels;
- Improve soil structure, aeration and drainage;
- Moderate soil temperatures;
- Suppress weeds;
- Reduce erosion; and
- Increase soil biological activity.

Increased soil organic matter contributes to soil health, which promotes healthy plant growth and healthy gardens, and can reduce garden management and maintenance requirements.

Recycled organics, what's that?

A range of RO products are manufactured from compostable organic materials (garden organics, food organics, residual wood and timber). The higher the RO content in the product you choose, the more beneficial organic matter for your soil.

Products with RO content

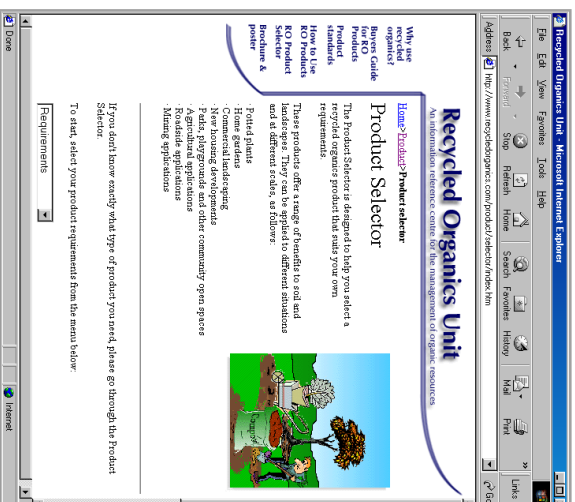
Examples of products for pot plant, garden and landscape use with RO content include:

- Mulches;
- Soil conditioners;
- Potting mixes;
- Landscaping and garden soils;
- Low density soils; and
- Playground surfacing.

Everything you need is on-line:

For further information, the Buyers Guide for Recycled Organics Products package, the How to Use Recycled Organics Products package, and Product Selector are online to help you find the right RO product for your needs!

<http://www.recycledorganics.com>



The 4 B's of recycled organics

When buying recycled organics products:

- Buy quality,
- Buy fit-for-purpose,
- Buy maximum RO content, and
- Buy local.

Follow these 4 B's to realise value for money, maximise environmental benefits and to avoid risks associated with the inappropriate use of recycled organics product use.

RESOURCE

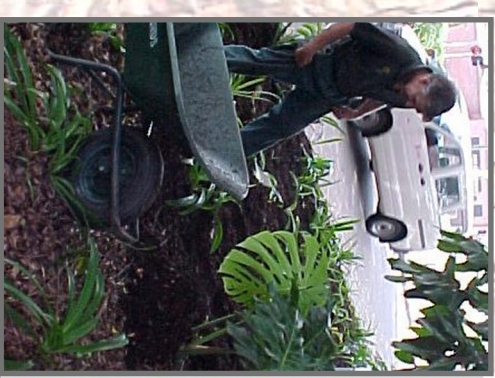
NSW

Freecall: 1800 225 587

<http://www.resource.nsw.gov.au>

Buyers Guide for Quality Recycled Organics Products

How to identify the best product for your needs



ROU

RESOURCE

NSW

Recycled Organics Unit

<http://www.recycledorganics.com>

How to Buy Quality Recycled Organics

Why buy quality?

As a consumer, it is important to differentiate between high and low quality products, and to select the right product for your intended use.

Quality products:

- ☺ Provide reliable performance;
- ☺ Are free from weed seeds & plant disease;
- ☺ Have product labelling which helps identify the right product for your needs.



Quality recycled organics products have been properly pasteurised. Pasteurisation involves composting all materials at temperatures that destroy seeds and plant and animal disease organisms that may have been present in the original organic materials.

How to identify quality

For bagged products and small orders, the surest option is to choose Australian Standards certified products, look for the logo below.

For large orders, choosing quality products is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Beyond this it's *buyer beware!*

1. Certified products

Certified product labels assure us that a product meets the relevant Australian Standard, and has been effectively pasteurised. Certified products provide us with the highest level of confidence in quality.



Certified products also have labelling that identifies the relevant Australian Standards product category. This helps us to select the correct type of product for our intended use.

2. Quality endorsed companies

Choose products from quality endorsed companies that provide batch test certificates (see below). Such products provide us with the second highest level of confidence in product quality.



3. Batch test certificate

Choose products from suppliers that provide laboratory test certificates which assess the current batch of product against the relevant Australian Standard. Such *batch test certificates* should state that the product conforms with all the requirements of the relevant standard.

Batch test certificates also identify the Australian Standard product category. This helps us to select the correct type of product for our intended use.

Laboratory Services

ABN 000 000 000
Specialising in the Analysis of Compost and Products Containing Recycled Organics

12 King St
Trarwll NSW 1111
Tel: (02) 0000 1111
Fax: (02) 0000 0111



Laboratory Services is a NATA accredited laboratory.

TEST REPORT: Soil conditioner compliance to AS 4454-

Date sample received: 01/03/99
Sample identification: 1109-1999
Sample condition: Compost, moist (fresh, as required)
Client: Mr John Citizen
Quality Compost Products Pty. Ltd.
101 Thine Rd
Timber NSW 0101

Test(s) required: Basic nutrient assessment
Product compliance requirements: Composted soil conditioner
Testing methodology: Australian Standard AS 4454-1999

TEST	UNIT	RESULT
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Buy fit-for-purpose

As consumers, we need to identify and use the right tool for the job. The right RO product will provide a range of benefits to soil and plants. The wrong product could have negative effects on plant health. Use our on-line Product Selector to find the right product for you. It's available right now at: <http://www.recycledorganics.com>

Recycled organics content

Look for products containing a high percentage of recycled organics content. This means you get more organic matter for your money to improve the health of your soils and your garden.

Buy local!



RO products are manufactured in many areas from local materials. When we buy RO products that are made from local resources, we reduce environmental impacts and support both our local economy and local employment opportunities.

Buyer beware!

It is important for consumers to realise the potential risks associated with the inappropriate use of recycled organics products. Use the *Buyers Guide* to avoid risks associated with:

- ☹ Confusing labelling
- ☹ Incorrect product selection
- ☹ Inappropriate application
- ☹ Poor quality products
- ☹ Immature products



Value for money!

When RO products are used correctly, significant savings can be achieved from healthier gardens, reduced fertiliser and herbicide use, and reduced garden maintenance and management requirements.