

LANDSCAPING CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

■ WHO IS BOWISE

BioWise, a joint development initiative between SITA Organics and the Water Corporation of Western Australia, produces high quality compost mulch for landscaping. This material can be applied as an alternative to natural topsoil in new land development constructions, landscape renovations and container gardens. The use of BioWise compost in these types of applications is not only less expensive than purchasing topsoil, but it can often produce better results when aiming to establish healthy vegetative cover.

BioWise compost is derived from green organics, biosolids and food residue, and is carefully matured to ensure compliance with Australian Standard AS4454 Composts, Mulches and Soil Conditioners. BioWise composts and mulches have the following characteristics that are beneficial for landscaping:

■ GRADES

BioWise produces different grades of compost, which would suit different requirements. For example, fine compost could be used on lush gardens whereas bushland regeneration or garden beds with native species may benefit from a coarser grade.

■ PRESENTATION

- BioWise product resembles a dark topsoil
- Pleasant earthy odour
- Light and crumbly texture
- Attractive appearance

■ BOWISE COMPOST FOR LANDSCAPING CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

- BioWise compost is a rich black/dark brown colour with a humic appearance, which would meet the aesthetic requirements of a landscaping compost/mulch
- Can be easily mixed with mineral substrates such as sand, sawdust and perlite to be used as a topsoil
- Can be used as a top dressing, or tilled into the soil



- Improved nutrient availability to plants which supports additional fertiliser application if required
- Reduced reliance on pesticides, herbicides and fungicides by providing an environment rich in organic matter
- Safe for public handling and open spaces as the product does not contain harmful amounts of contaminants
- Improved soil structure means increased resistance to wind and water erosion
- Enhanced water holding capacity, resulting in increased water availability for plants and good drainage which will prevent build up of water
- Stable soil temperature and pH lowers risk to young plants
- Consistent compost quality and supply which can meet fluctuating seasonal demands

■ BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise product quality is monitored regularly to ensure compost and mulch is consistent and stable
- BioWise product complies with stringent microbial and chemical contaminant criteria for unrestricted use (ARMCANZ Grade A) and all criteria for AS4454 Australian Standards
- Provides a long term source of slow-release nutrients
- Stimulates plant growth and improves root penetration of plants

■ PHYSICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise product is free of large stones, pieces of wood and other contaminants, such as glass, which are aesthetically undesirable
- BioWise product suppresses weeds in garden beds and is free of viable weed seeds which are destroyed during the composting process
- Enhances water holding capacity, soil aeration and structural stability of soil
- Provides adequate drainage
- Stabilises soil temperature and pH
- Promotes the activity of beneficial soil micro organisms

■ PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Particle size grading

- Fine and medium compost/mulch

Moisture content 30-50%

C:N ratio 15-25:1

pH 6.0 – 8.0

Total Nitrogen 0.8 – 1.3%; can be up to 3% (fortified)

Total Phosphorus 0.1 – 1.0%; (suitable for a variety of native and exotic plants, excluding P sensitive species)

Wettability 0.62 – 3.44

NDI 1.23

Note: all criteria above comply with AS4454

Australian Standard – Composts, Soil Conditioners and Mulches

■ RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATES AND METHODS

Garden preparation

To establish a new garden or prepare a garden for planting add 5 – 10 cm of compost and if possible till to a depth of 15 - 20 cm. If the soil is very poor, add extra compost to the top 6 – 10 cm of soil.

If the compost is mixed as mulch and applied as topsoil, cover the area to a depth of 15 cm.

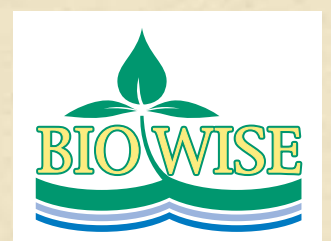
Trees and shrubs

Lay 2.5 cm of compost around trees and 5 cm around shrubs. Do not place compost right up against plants. Apply in late spring and gently rake into the surface.

To prepare soil for new shrubs, till the soil to a depth of 15 – 25 cm, depending on the size of the shrub.

The depth should be twice the width of the root ball.

Use approximately 5 – 10 cm of compost and mix thoroughly into the soil. If the soil is very poor use 15 cm of compost instead.



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