

# ROAD VERGE APPLICATION

## ■ WHO IS BLOWISE

BioWise, a joint development initiative between SITA Organics and the Water Corporation of Western Australia, produces high quality compost for road verges. This material can be applied as an amendment application to control roadside erosion or as surface applications to established roadside vegetation.

BioWise compost is produced from the organic matter and nutrients in green organics, biosolids and food residue, and is carefully matured to ensure compliance with Australian Standard AS4454 Composts, Mulches and Soil Conditioners. BioWise compost has the following characteristics that are beneficial for road verges:

## ■ GRADES

Different grades of compost are produced for use in different applications:

- Coarse-grade mulch/compost is ideal for erosion control and weed suppressant in road verges
- Medium textured compost is ideal for application to roadside vegetation and soil amendment
- Fine compost can be used to top dress turf and alleviate soil compaction

## ■ PRESENTATION

- BioWise resembles a rich dark topsoil
- Pleasant earthy odour
- Light and crumbly texture

## ■ BLOWISE COMPOST FOR ROAD VERGES

- Improves soil structure and stability, reduces erosion and promotes vegetative cover along steep embankments
- Improves moisture retention in sandy soils, drainage in clay soils and stronger root establishment
- Reduces run off down steep slopes. The water holding capacity of compost can be used to reduce



the velocity of water and provide additional protection from pollution for water resources

- Reduces wind erosion because of the improved soil structure, vegetation and ability to retain moisture
- Supports additional fertiliser application if required
- Promotes vegetation establishment on sites with harsh growing environments
- Can be used directly, or mixed with yellow sand, sawdust, woodchips or other agents to meet customer requirements
- Improves establishment of new vegetation
- Visually attractive

## ■ BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise compost is free from dieback contamination
- BioWise product is free of viable weed seeds which are destroyed during the composting process
- Increases soil nutrient content and satisfies plant nutrient requirements, in a mix of quick and slow release nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and micronutrients such as calcium and magnesium
- Promotes microbial activity for soil aggregate formation and plant disease suppression
- Adds organic bulk and humus to vitalise poor soils
- High in trace elements
- The product is 100% organic – no fertiliser added

## ■ PHYSICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise is free of large stones, pieces of wood and other undesirable contaminants which could damage mowing equipment
- BioWise improves water retention in sandy soils and drainage in clay soils
- The moisture content is between 30-50%, which is ideal for handling, surface applications and soil incorporation
- BioWise compost can be easily amended with bulking agents for specific requirements such as soil compaction and topsoil applications

## ■ PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Particle size grading:

- Erosion control compost - Medium to coarse grade
- General use compost - Fine to medium grade

Moisture content: 30-50%

C:N ratio: 15-25:1

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Total Nitrogen: 0.8 - 1.3%

Total Phosphorus: 0.1 - 1.0%

(suitable for all plants except P sensitive)

Wettability: 3.44

NDI: 1.23

Organic matter:

- Erosion control compost > 40 - 60%
- General use compost > 40 - 60%  
(including: roadside topsoil application)

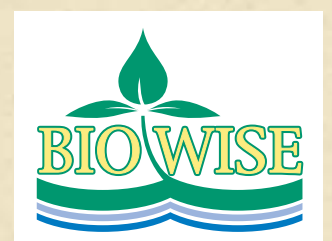
Note: all criteria above comply with AS4454

Australian Standard - Composts, Soil Conditioners and Mulches

## ■ RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATES AND METHODS ARE:

10 – 15 cm layers of low-grade mulch/compost for erosion purposes can be backfilled over excavated areas, and lightly rolled and compacted. Compost can be mounded at the top and bottom of steep slopes to slow water run off.

1 – 5 cm layers of medium grade compost or topsoil mix (for example, a mix of compost, sawdust and yellow sand) is suitable for soil amendment and plant establishment requirements. If the soil is very poor up to 10 cm of compost or topsoil mix should be used. The soil should be tilled to a depth of approximately 10 – 15 cm.



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