

# TURF FARMERS

## ■ WHO IS BLOWISE

BioWise, a joint development initiative between SITA Organics and the Water Corporation of Western Australia, produces high quality compost for turf production. This material can be applied as a soil amendment prior to turf grass establishment, as surface applications (top dressing) to established turf and as partial fertilisers.

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 compost has the following characteristics that are beneficial for turf farmers:

## ■ GRADES

- Different texture grades of compost are produced for use in different turf applications
- The medium textured compost is ideal for application to bare soil prior to seeding as it won't blow or be washed away by spray irrigation systems.
- Fine compost can be used on established lawn without risks of being washed or blown away

## ■ PRESENTATION

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

## ■ BLOWISE COMPOST FOR THE TURF INDUSTRY

- Improves turf colour and density, and rapid turf establishment with increased rooting
- Promotes diversity of organisms in the soil and sustains beneficial organisms present in healthy soil
- Increases beneficial earthworm population
- In clay soils compost will increase permeability for air and water, break up soil aggregates, reduce surface crusting and compaction and provide nutrients



- In sandy soils, the organic matter in compost will increase water holding capacity and nutrient retention, supply nutrients and increase microbial activity
- Reduces requirement for irrigation and supports additional fertiliser application if required
- Provides an alternative to chicken manure
- Promotes rapid healing of cored turf
- Reduces pesticide application requirement

## ■ BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise compost is consistent, mature and biologically and structurally stable
- Increases soil nutrient content and satisfies turf nutrient requirements, in a mix of quick and slow release nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and micronutrients such as calcium and magnesium
- BioWise product complies with stringent microbial and chemical contaminant criteria for unrestricted use (ARMCANZ Grade A) and all criteria for AS4454 Australian Standards
- High in trace elements

## ■ PHYSICAL PARAMETERS AND QUALITY

- BioWise compost is free of large stones, pieces of wood and other undesirable contaminants, such as glass, which could damage mowing equipment
- BioWise product is free of viable weed seeds which are destroyed during the composting process
- The moisture content is between 30 – 50%, which is ideal for handling, surface applications and soil incorporation

## ■ 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

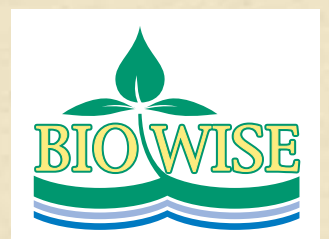
## ■ RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATES AND METHODS

### Turf establishment

2 – 5 cm of BioWise compost into the top 10 – 15 cm of soil. The lower rate (2cm) is better suited for marginally good soil, while the higher rate is ideal for sandy soils, heavy clay soil, or subsoils low in organic matter. For best results ensure the compost is properly mixed with the soil; depending on the material this may require several passes with rotary hoe or tilling equipment.

### Turf maintenance/topdressing

0.5 - 1 cm of BioWise compost on established turf. For best results aerate soil prior to topdressing, or make passes over the turf with an aerator and dragger once compost has been applied. Depending on the size of the application area, the compost can be raked in, or spread using a large hopper, manure spreaders, or relevant spreading equipment. Application is best during cool/moist seasons, as aerating and dragging can be stressful for the turf during hot and dry weather.



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