

Compost – The Sustainable Solution



Minnesota Erosion Control Association
Annual Conference & Trade Show
March 11, 2015

Overview

- Benefits of Compost Use
- STA Certified Compost
- New USCC Compost Use Program



Benefits of Compost

- Increases
 - infiltration and permeability
 - reduces erosion and runoff
 - soil structure
- Improves
 - water holding capacity
 - Improves cation exchange capacity of soils
 - Improves and stabilizes soil pH
- Supplies
 - variety of macro and micronutrients
 - significant quantities of organic matter
 - beneficial microorganisms to soils

Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program

What is it?

- Consistent testing methods and information disclosure
- Characterize compost for those who purchase and use the final product and improve their confidence in its use
- It is NOT a standards program
- Created in 2000 by leading US compost scientists (published jointly by USDA & USCC)



STA Program

Requirements of the Compost Maker:

- Operate a permitted facility
- Routinely test their compost at a certified STA lab
- Create and distribute specific compost use directions
- Provide an STA Compost Technical Data Sheet report to all who request it.
- ALL STA compost must meet EPA standards

STA Program Requirements cont.

- Provide an accurate statement of feedstock materials
- The Compost Technical Data Sheet shall include:
 - detailed directions for product use (actual compost application rates and/or depths)
 - a list of product ingredients and directions shall be provided by the STA participant
 - analytical test results (from a certified STA test lab)



US Composting Council®

COMPOST
THE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION
SOIL WATER PLANTS


2014 and Beyond

Compost...THE Sustainable Solution **Water, water everywhere....*but not a drop to drink?***

- Increasing the Organic Matter content in soil....Benefits beyond the plants!
- Compost use in sediment and erosion control....Preserve soil:
Preserve water quality
 - Engineered soils....Compost and 'green infrastructure'


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The Minnesota Composting Council is a member driven non-profit dedicated to advancing the recycling of organic materials in the state of Minnesota. To make the composting industry successful the MNCC seeks the participation of businesses associated with the composting industry and the public sector. Activities the MNCC is organizing are:

- **Tour of the Full-Circle Organics Composting facility** May 8th, 2013. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Midwest Compost Training Course** – June 3 – 6, 2013 at the Minnesota Arboretum. This course is designed allow composters to meet the training requirement in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. Click [here](#) for details.

In the future the MNCC will be offering half day courses to allow composters to get the continuing education credits need to meet state training requirements.

Questions

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