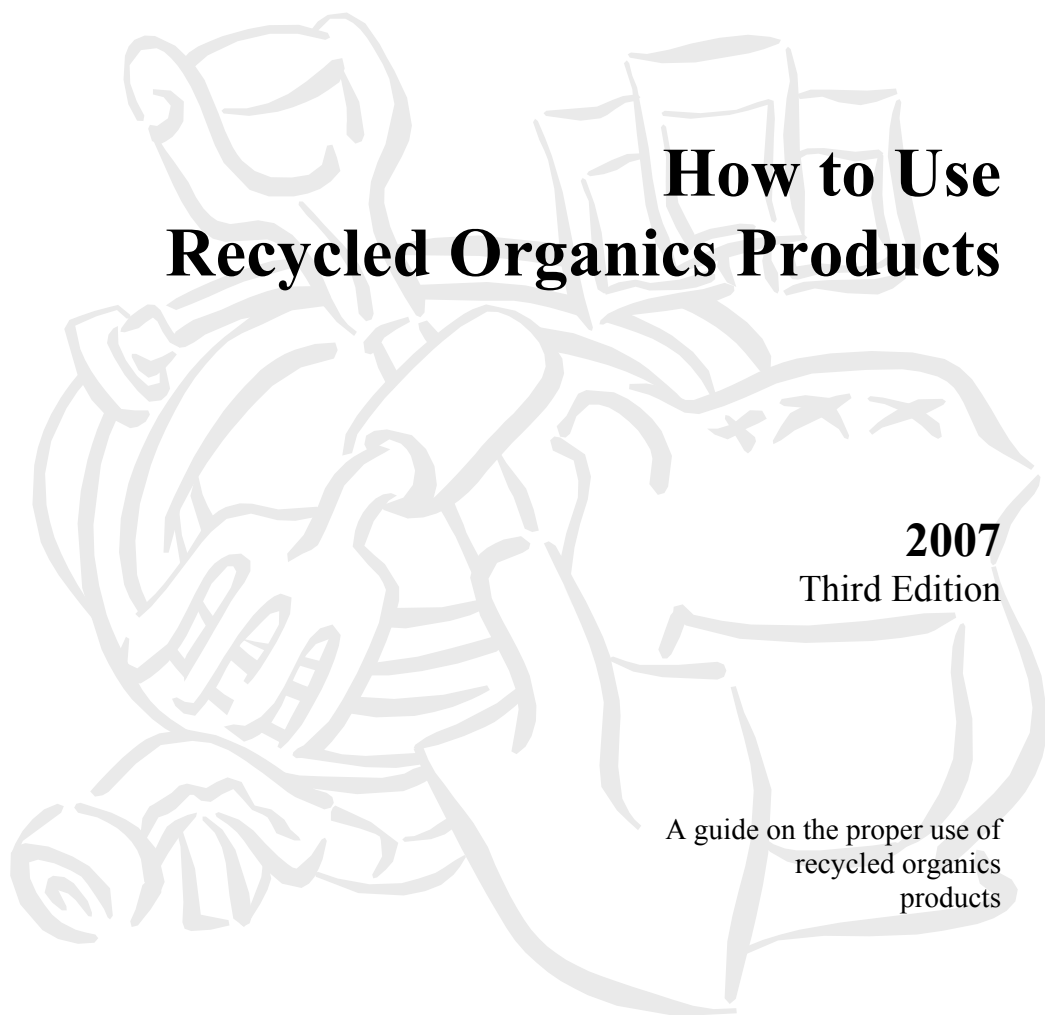




How to Use Recycled Organics Products

2007
Third Edition

A guide on the proper use of
recycled organics
products



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This package has undergone national peer review by a range of technical and industry experts (see acknowledgments) and has been endorsed by COMMPOST NSW and the NSW branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia.



Preface to *How to Use Recycled Organics Products*

This package of Information Sheets has been produced to support the continuing development of the Recycled Organics (RO) industry in New South Wales by informing buyers on the appropriate use of products containing recycled organics for a range of applications.

The “*How to Use Recycled Organics Products*” package contains a series of Information Sheets for individual product categories that cover:

- The range of products containing recycled organics;
- Appropriate uses for these products, and
- How to use recycled organics products to achieve consistent and quality performance.

This reference guide should be of value to those responsible for using, or advising on the proper use of RO products. The key benefits of each product are highlighted and guidance on how to use them successfully and improve the environment is also given.

Products covered in this guide include those in relevant Australian Standards, including - composts, soil conditioners and mulches, general and specialist potting mixes, soils for landscaping and garden use, and organic (loose fill) products used for playground surfacing.

A range of products for which there is no industry or Australian Standard are also covered, these include – shredded plant materials (e.g. leaf mulch), vermiculture liquids and aqueous compost extracts.

“*How to Use Recycled Organics Products*” is a companion guide to the “*Buyers Guide for Recycled Organics Products*” package which assists consumers to identify relevant products that match their requirements. This will contribute to market development for RO products.

This package has been developed to complement existing information resources and to provide an easy-to-read account of how to properly use RO. To further assist buyers with appropriate product selection, an Internet-based product selector has been developed. The information packages and the recycled organics *Product Selector* are available for use online at <http://www.recycledorganics.com/>

1. Information Sheets in the “*How to Use Recycled Organics Products*” package

This package contains 16 Information Sheets as follows:

Products within AS 4454 (2002) for composts, soil conditioners and mulches

- Information Sheet No. 7-1-1: Pasteurised soil conditioner
- Information Sheet No. 7-1-2: Pasteurised fine mulch
- Information Sheet No. 7-1-3: Pasteurised mulch
- Information Sheet No. 7-1-4: Composted soil conditioner
- Information Sheet No. 7-1-5: Composted fine mulch
- Information Sheet No. 7-1-6: Composted mulch

Products within AS 3743 (2002) for potting mixes

- Information Sheet No. 7-2-1: General potting mix
- Information Sheet No. 7-2-2: Specialist potting mix

Products within AS 4419 (2002) for soils for landscaping and garden use

- Information Sheet No. 7-3-1: Manufactured soil products — Low density soils
- Information Sheet No. 7-3-2: Manufactured soil products — Organic soils
- Information Sheet No. 7-3-3: Soil blend products

Products within AS 4422 (1998) for playground surfacing

- Information Sheet No. 7-4-1: Playground surfacing

Products that do not currently have an Australian benchmark

- Information Sheet No. 7-5-1: Shredded plant materials (non-pasteurised)
- Information Sheet No. 7-6-1: Vermicast¹
- Information Sheet No. 7-6-2: Vermiculture liquids
- Information Sheet No. 7-7-1: Aqueous compost extracts

An overview of these product categories is given in Information Sheet 6-5, “*Recycled organics product categories and standards*” in the “*Buyers Guide for Recycled Organics Products*”.

¹ Pasteurised vermicast products are now characterised as a soil conditioner according to AS 4454 (2002). See Information Sheet 7-1-1.

2. Other Packages

A series of eight packages are available on important aspects of recycled organics industry development. These are listed below.

- Package 1: Establishing a licensed composting facility;
- Package 2: Guide to developing a process control system for a composting facility;
- Package 3: Producing quality compost;
- Package 4: Guide to selecting, developing and marketing value-added recycled organics products;
- Package 5: Composting science for industry;
- Package 6: Buyers guide for recycled organics products
- Package 7: How to use recycled organics products;
- Package 8: Occupational health and safety and commercial composting.

All of these packages are obtainable from <http://www.recycledorganics.com>

3. Who should read the Information Sheets?

This package of Information Sheets has been developed for large purchasers of products containing recycled organics, such as Local Government, State Government and industry.

More specifically, the package of Information Sheets have been developed for:

- Landscape architects;
- Landscape contractors;
- Horticulturalists;
- Greenkeepers;
- Nursery and landscape suppliers;
- Parks and grounds maintenance officers;
- Home gardeners;
- State Government purchasing officers;
- Large private sector buyers;
- Marketing agencies;
- Potential buyers and users of RO;
- Waste educators;
- Resource NSW officers, and
- Industry consultants.

4. Terminology

The terminology in this package is consistent with that officially adopted by the NSW Waste Boards (now Resource NSW) in July 2000. That is, compostable organic materials (garden organics, food organics, wood and timber) are processed by the recycled organics industry into a range of recycled organics products. Other terminology is consistent with the nationally peer reviewed *RO Dictionary and Thesaurus: Standard terminology for the recycled organics industry*, produced by the Recycled Organics Unit. This document is freely downloadable from <http://www.rolibrary.com>

5. How to cite this publication

This publication consists of a series of Information Sheets that are compiled into a set. When citing information from this publication, the set of Information Sheets must be cited (not individual Information Sheets), as shown below:

Recycled Organics Unit (2003). *How to Use Recycled Organics Products: A Guide on the Proper Use of Recycled Organics Products*. Third edition. Recycled Organics Unit, internet publication: <http://www.recycledorganics.com>

6. Acknowledgements

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