

Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808) is a 3-year practice where compost-a microbially decomposed organic matter- is applied to different crop types and soil conditions to improve soil fertility and structure.

Part of California Farm Bureau's Healthy Soils Block Grant Program, learn more online at: cfbf.com/HSP

This practice aims to:

- Increase soil fertility and microbial activity.
- Improve plant productivity and health.
- Improve moisture management.
- Reduce the need to use commercial synthetic fertilizers.
- Store carbon and reduce greenhouse emissions.

Criteria:

Appendix A: Standard Payments

On-farm Produced Compost & On-farm Produced Compost & Purchased Compost (C:N \leq 11) application 2 tons/ acre : \$128.64 3 tons/ acre \$192.96 4 tons/ acre \$ 257.28

Purchased Compost (C:N > 11) application 6 tons/ acre : \$385.92 7 tons/ acre \$450.24 8 tons/ acre \$514.56

- Compost can be sourced from a certified facility or produced on-farm.
- HSP does not incentivize the application of compost to soils with Soil Organic Matter greater than 20%.
- A lab analysis report of the compost's C:N ratio, conducted within 6 months before application, is required for both purchased or produced compost.

If compost is purchased:

- Must be from a facility permitted or authorized by state/local authorities, compliant with state regulations.
- Facilities must adhere to California Code of Regulations Title 14 (14 CCR), Division 7, Chapter 3.1, Articles 5-9.
- Verify the composting facility's listing with a "Permitted" or "Notifications" status on the CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search
- For dry compost, ensure the facility is CDFA-OIM Certified: <u>CDFA-OIM Certified Facilities</u>
- For California, look for STA certified compost participants: STA Certified Compost

If compost is produced:

- Compost used must be produced at the agricultural operation where the project is located.
- Compost cannot be vermicompost.
- Compost must be made from plant animal materials using the specified processes, with a detailed farm log documenting the process.

Composting methods:

- In-vessel or Static Aerated Pile System: Maintain a temperature of 131°F and 170°F for three consecutive days.
- Windrow Composting: Maintain a temperature of 131°F and 170°F for 15 consecutive days, turning the materials at least 5 times.

Implementation Guidelines:

Purchased Compost:

• Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre (C:N \leq 11) or 6-8 tons/acre (C:N > 11).

On-farm Produced Compost:

- Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre (C:N \leq 11) or 6-8 tons/ acre (C:N > 11)
- Compost materials, method and composting process must be documented.
- Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Sec. 17852.

Verification Requirements:

Purchased Compost:

- 3-4 geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied.
- A copy of receipt for compost purchased.
- Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
- A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search

On-farm Produced Compost:

- 3-4 geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied.
- A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process.
- Estimated total tonnage of compost applied.
- Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.

Additional Resources:

CDFA On-Farm Compost Resources

CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search

STA Certified Compost Participants

Approved Compost Facilities California Map

UC ANR Compost Information

USDA NRCS. (2020). 808 CPS Soil Carbon Amendment

Appendix A: Practice Payment Scenarios, Rates, Requirements, and Implementation

Information was acquired from the CDFA's Appendix A and the USDA Conservation Standard Practices Code 808