



WHY USE COMPOST AND HOW TO USE IT?

The USDA grant includes getting finished compost to Bellwood, Broadview and Maywood to improve soil health, mitigate flooding, and more.

Mixing organic matter compost into the soil provides for proper drainage and better soil preparation. Organic matter also hosts beneficial microorganisms that turn organic fertilizer and minerals in the soil into plant-available nutrients that can be taken up by roots. Applying compost and seeds at the same time will improve germination and moisture retention.

How Much Compost You Will Need	
Type of Application	Amount Needed
Garden Beds	If new to composting: Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of compost to the soil surface. If already have compost in soil: Apply a ¼ to 1 inch layer of compost to the soil surface each year.
Fields/Lawns	About ¼ inches to ½ inches thick of compost on surface Compost should be 1 to 2 inches thick around trees, flowers, or any other plants
Potted Plants	The soil mixture should be one part topsoil and one part compost
Landscaping	⅓ inch of compost to the surface

Volume of compost needed =
multiply the surface area (length x width) by the thickness of the compost layer
 $\text{Volume} = L \times W \times \text{Thickness}$

How to Apply the Compost	
Type of Application	How to Apply
Garden Beds	Mix the compost into the top 8 to 12 inches of existing soil.
Fields/Lawns	• Dot the lawn with small piles of compost of about 3 or 4 shovelfuls each. • Space the piles so that once the compost is spread out, the lawn is fully covered. • Rake until the grass blades are almost fully visible through the compost. • Gently apply water to help the compost work its way down to the soil.
Potted Plants	Mix the topsoil and compost together and plant.
Landscaping	Spread the compost on the soil surface, and seed or plant as normal.

For help finding finished compost, contact Jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org

