



Besides the benefits it brings as a fertiliser, compost has many other positive qualities for the soil and its fertility, such as improving the structure of the soil, water retention and nutrient storage capacity, and encouraging biological activity, among other factors.

Where compost is used, the choice must be based on soil analysis (for nutrient content, etc.) and also on an analysis of the compost itself (quality, nutrient content, possible harmful residues).

1. Naturland's production standards:

Pursuant to Naturland's standards for production (the latest version, 05/2016), the following requirements apply to the use of composts:

B.1.1 Humus management and fertilisation

Ploughing nutrients back in the soil using compost is recommended on the principle of the recycling of nutrients if it is certain they do not transport harmful residue (Appendix 1, 1.2). Waste and/or urban compost, faecal and sewage sludge are prohibited. The use of liquid manure and poultry dung from conventional animal husbandry, and of fermented residue from biogas plants which are run solely on conventional fermented matter or on genetically modified organisms from aggregates or on liquid manure and poultry dung from conventional animal husbandry, is prohibited.

Permitted manure and soil improvement agents are listed in appendix 1.

Appendix 1. 1.2 Compost

Green compost, organic compost from separate household waste and other compost comprising material not produced on the farm may only be used if it is proven free from harmful residues. Approval of its use must be applied for. Detailed regulations imposed by Naturland with respect to quality assurance are given in the application form.

2. Application form for permission to use composts:

The application form for composts includes green composts, organic composts from source separated household waste and other composts from **material not produced on the farm**.

You can find the application form on the Naturland website under: <http://www.naturland.de/de/> in the languages [German](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#) and [French](#) (Please click on the link of the required language for direct access to the document) or you can also ask your Naturland contact to give you a copy.

You are advised to submit the completed form to your Naturland contact before applying the compost. Only after you have received the approval of the Naturland admissions committee may you apply green composts, organic composts from source separated household waste and other composts from material not produced on your farm.

There is no need to submit an application form for compost produced on your own farm or for solid waste (ref. Naturland production standards, Appendix 1).



The following are required from the company supplying the compost:

- The only aggregates used in the production of the compost are those permitted under the Naturland standards on production (ref. Appendix 1: Permissible Fertilisers and Soil Improvement Agents).
- The compost shall contain no GMO vegetation or aggregates.
- Only composts of which the safety has been assured with respect to residues may be applied. Compost analysis for contamination with heavy metals is required (maximum concentration dry matter in mg/kg: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): 0).
- Tests must be performed at least once a year.
- The supplier must be able to produce evidence of the results of the analysis. Please submit this along with the application.
- Compost from organic waste may only be used if the compost plant complies with Naturland's quality assurance criteria (see below).

The following is required of the Naturland farm buying the compost:

- Soil analysis for the nutrient and humus content must be performed at least once every 3 years. Please submit the latest results of the analysis along with the application form.
- The nutrient balance (N, P, K) or nutrient comparison must be acceptable.
- The farm's nutrient budget must be calculated once a year. Please submit this with the application.
- The relevant specifications in the standards governing the greatest quantity of fertiliser permissible are to be observed. 20% of the overall level of N in the compost will be offset, at a maximum of 30 t/ha as dry matter in 3 years in the case of composts of certified quality and otherwise 20 t/ha as dry matter.
- Please contact the compost producer to clarify any requirements to notify the appropriate authorities before using their compost for the first time.
- If the composts are not of certified quality, it is necessary to analyse the soil for heavy metals.

3. EU Eco-Regulation:

Annex I of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 stipulates the following with respect to residue concentration (heavy metals) in a composted or fermented mixture derived from household waste:

- product obtained from source separated household waste, which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production
- only vegetable and animal household waste
- only when produced in a closed and monitored collection system, accepted by the Member State
- maximum concentrations in mg/kg of dry matter: cadmium: 0,7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): 0

4. Naturland QA criteria for the use of composts produced from organic waste:

Naturland has established the following criteria applying to compost from organic waste obtained from source separated household waste. The composting plant must comply with these requirements. Evidence/analyses must be submitted along with the compost application form.

Note: The following requirements do not apply to green composts or composted substances included in Appendix 1 of the Naturland standards for production. These need only comply with the heavy metal concentration levels given in the EU eco-regulation with respect to composted or fermented mixtures obtained from household waste (see above).

General comment:

The application of liquid fermented substrates from waste obtained from source separated household waste is not permitted. Only humified composts are permitted.

Batch analyses:

- heavy metals relevant under the EU eco-regulation (concentrations stipulated by the EU eco-regulation: maximum concentration dry matter in mg/kg: cadmium: 0.7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0.4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): 0)
- degree of humification of batch at least 4 (in exceptions 3, after clarification with farmer)
- foreign matter > 2 mm (glass, plastic, metal etc.) max. 0.3% by weight
- area index plastic max. 15 cm²/l compost

Regular analysis

for specific pollutants (in the compost plant, not older than 3 years):

- arsenic: max. 20 mg/kg in the dry matter
- thallium: max. 0.5 mg/kg in the dry matter
- dioxins (PCDD/F) and DL-PCB: max. 20 ng WHO-TEQ/kg dry matter
- PAH/polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons: max. 6 mg/kg dry matter

One-off analysis

(in the compost plant, may be older than 3 years):

- PFT/perfluorinated surfactants: max. 0.05 mg/kg dry matter

Monitoring

(should the need arise, in special cases):

- seasonal batches: e. g. Tiabendazole (peel of citrus fruits)
- observation of all other possible relevant contaminants by means of monitoring by official national bodies or as part of the QA system (e. g. plant protection products from conventional sources)