

The following information forms part of the contract of supply under which the Biffa PAS100 Quality Compost Product is supplied.

The PAS100 Quality Compost supplied under this contract:

- is for use solely in designated market sector applications (as detailed on the weighbridge ticket): ‘This product/compost shall not be sold or distributed for use, or used in any markets other than specified on the weighbridge ticket.’
- must be used in accordance with good practice guidelines; and
- must not in any circumstances be blended with any waste material. If material is blended with waste, then the resulting mix becomes a waste and is regulated as such.

Guidelines for the use, storage and safe handling of the compost

Safe Handling and use

Every effort has been made to ensure this product contains no germs, sharps fragments, toxins or regenerative plant parts. However the manufacturer cannot guarantee they will never be present. When preparing or using the product, avoid inhaling any dust from it or ingesting any of it.

Keep young children away from this product. As with all soil conditioners wear gloves when handling and wash hands after use.

Domestic Usage

Flower/garden bed establishment

Apply to a depth of 25-50mm and incorporate into the soil to a depth of 150mm.

Tree/shrub backfill mix

Blend the compost with the soil from the planting hole in a ratio of two parts soil to one part compost.

Plant Mulch

Apply around the main leader of stem to a depth of 25mm-75mm.

Turf Top Dressing

Aerate, apply to a depth of 6-12mm and brush or rake into soil surface.

Turf establishment

Apply to a depth of 25-50mm and incorporate to a minimum depth of 100-150mm. Establish a proper seedbed prior to sowing seed.

Pot and bedding plants, seeds and cuttings, hanging baskets.

It is recommended that the compost is blended with other growing media components e.g. peat in the ratio of 1 part compost to 3 parts peat to ensure satisfactory results.

General

Care should be taken with ericaceous plants (camellias, heathers, rhododendrons). A lower rate of compost should be used to maintain an acid soil. Soil analysis is recommended to establish the characteristics of the soil.

Other Designated market sectors

Agriculture and soil-grown horticulture

Good practice must be followed in order to ensure that the quality compost does not pose a risk to human health or the environment in the quantities and frequencies at which it is to be applied. Good practice means that anyone who uses the compost must take account of all potential environmental issues such as application rates, impacts on soil function, potential for water pollution, etc.

Land restoration and soft landscape operations

Examples of the ways in which quality compost may be used in these sectors are:

Soil manufacture and/or blending operations (including manufacture of turf dressings and root zone media); land reclamation and land remediation; and soft landscape operations (including soil improvement, turf maintenance, turf establishment and as a mulch).

Horticulture

Examples of the way in which quality compost may be used in this sector are:

- as a direct soil improver/soil conditioner for domestic use; and
- blending with other non-waste materials to produce a horticultural grade growing medium for domestic use and professional applications.

Agriculture and soil-grown horticulture

Under the compost Quality Protocol, quality compost can be used in agriculture and soil-grown horticulture as a soil improver or mulch provided it is used in such a way that:

- it does not pose a risk to the environment; and
- its use does not compromise the future sustainable use of the soil to which it is applied.

The compost is supplied on the basis that the user must will ensure that they take full account of any environmental impact resulting from its use.

Details of good practice for the testing, record-keeping (including responsibility for record-keeping) and application of quality compost in relation to agriculture and soil-grown horticulture are given in Appendix E and H.

For Agricultural or soil grown horticulture users the following records must be kept by the land manager and made available to the compost producer/certification:

- ▶ Quantity of compost received tonnes
- ▶ Batch codes of compost received code
- ▶ Compost certification number numerical
Typical compost PTE concentrations
(provided by the compost producer) mg/kg
- ▶ Initial soil PTE analysis mg/kg dry weight
- ▶ Calculated soil PTE content (based on mg/kg dry weight all subsequent additions of compost including this year's)
- ▶ Soil nutrient analysis mg/litre dry weight
- ▶ Compost analysis yes or no
- ▶ Date of application dd/mm/yyyy
- ▶ Rate of application tonne/ha fresh weight
- ▶ Area over which compost is incorporated ha
- ▶ Incorporation depth cm
- ▶ Total quantity of compost applied tonnes
- ▶ Location of application:
 - Whole field application:
Rural Land Register – England (RLR) or Land Parcel Identification System – Wales (LPIS) number. Where this is not available an eight-figure grid reference for the centre of the field should be used.
 - Part field application (including cropping structures):
Eight-figure grid reference for the centre of the area to which protected compost is applied.

Responsibility for record-keeping

To demonstrate that the material is being used in the right way and that the environment is being protected, the land manager receiving the compost is responsible for ensuring that:

- the records detailed in above list are made; and
- the records detailed in above list are retained and supplied to the compost producer and or certification body.

This applies even if a contractor (e.g. the compost producer) carries out the application of the compost and/or soil testing for the land manager.

Where the producer is not responsible for applying the compost, these records should be made available or given to the original compost producer so that the producer can demonstrate to the certification body that environmental harm did not occur when the compost was used. In the case of agriculture and soil-grown horticulture, the land manager should also keep the records specified in the above list so as to be able to demonstrate that soil resources are being sufficiently protected. Records of all compost applications should be submitted to the certification body within 12 months of receipt of compost.

Application and testing requirements for use of quality compost in agriculture and soil-grown horticulture

Application requirements

Advice should be taken from an advisor qualified under the Fertiliser Advisers Certification

and Training Scheme (FACTS). Any application of quality compost should conform to the requirements set out in the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice (CoGAP) (or subsequent guidance) for air, water and soil. In particular, compost should not be spread on frozen, snow-covered or waterlogged ground, or within 10 metres of a watercourse.

Applications should be made as described in Single Farm Payment Scheme – Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management. Compost applications should be matched to crop nutrient requirement, growth stage and prevailing weather conditions, and be made in accordance with the guidance set out in Fertiliser Recommendations for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops (RB209). Compost applications should adhere to the soil PTE limit values set out in the Code of Practice for the Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge (the 'Sludge Code').

Sampling and analysis requirements

All chemical analysis should be carried out by laboratories using appropriate methods that are accredited by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17025 or the Environment Agency's MCERTS performance standard for the chemical testing of soil. Soil sampling for major nutrients should be carried out regularly. Compost should not be applied unless the soil has been analysed within the last five years (in accordance with RB209).

Nutrient analysis should include extractable phosphorous (Olsen method), available potassium, available magnesium and total sulphur. Nitrogen should be calculated using Soil Nitrogen Supply except where RB209 requires soil analysis.

Biffa, as the compost producer has arranged for the compost to be analysed and such analysis can be supplied on request, and the land manager should arrange for the receiving soil to be analysed, for PTEs (lead, cadmium, mercury, copper, zinc, nickel) to ensure that the limit values set out in the Sludge (Use in Agriculture Regulations) 1989 are not exceeded.

Soil analysis for PTEs should be carried out before the first application of compost and again when the predicted concentrations approach 75 per cent of the limit values set out in the Code of Practice for the Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge.