



### **Erosion Control with Compost**

Compost Blankets, Berms, and Socks are temporary erosion and sediment control tools on construction or land stabilization sites.

Unlike other erosion tools that can be expensive to remove and dispose of, compost products can be left onsite to permanently enhance plant growth

Adding Compost to topsoil solves issues of topsoil organic matter compliance for NZTA (OM not less than 4% by weight) and CCC Civil Engineering Construction (OM between 7-20% by weight)

Specific seed mixes can be blown in with the compost to kick start native ecology establishment or native species can be planted directly into the compost blanket. Both methods provide much better plant survival, long-term growth, and erosion prevention, even on difficult sites.

### **Compost Blankets**

Compost blankets are usually 50 cm to 100 cm thick.

They can be installed by blowing compost pneumatically onto slopes with gradients up to 2:1 (slopes 1:1 with additional stabilization), or on shallower inclines by spreading compost with conventional equipment.

In general, compost, used as a blanket, has larger particle sizes to allow rainfall to be absorbed and filtered rapidly.

The compost blanket makes excellent ground surface contact that prevents the soil from rilling underneath.

### **Compost Berms**

Compost Berms are used as a perimeter sediment control measure which is increasingly used instead of silt fences. The Berm width is twice its height; 30 cm high x 60 cm width is common. They can be pneumatically blown in place using a portable berm form or installed with a Bobcat.

Again, the compost material is coarser than garden grade compost so as to filter turbid water quickly.

Besides sediment removal, compost is proven to remove nitrites up to 20%, Diesel, oil and grease, 96% metals 98%, Hsieh and Davis (2005) and buffering pH (such as from fresh concrete wash off).

### **Compost Socks**

Compost Socks are easy to install and versatile; fast replacing the silt fence and straw bales as a cost-effective control for sediment and other pollutants. Particularly effective on gradients 2:1 and greater, the Sock excels at filtration and has dependable ground contact, i.e. it won't wash away. Biodegradable socks can be used and left in without removal. If non-biodegradable socks are used, only the light fabric must be removed while the compost is left on-site – still much cheaper than silt fence removal. Socks can be filled in place or delivered, filled, on pallets. Unlike many erosion control tools, compost socks don't have to be trenched in – just walk down the socks to initiate good soil contact, and stake through the sock on slopes.

All Compost used by Red Tree Environmental Solutions Ltd is pasteurized, weed & pathogen free and is compliant with the requirements of NZ Standard 4454:2005.

