

## Compost for Wine-Grape Growers

### Fact Sheet 3: Getting Started



To get the best out of compost, it needs to be used regularly as an integrated part of crop and soil management. Therefore, you need to be clear about what you want the compost to achieve and talk to suppliers about products and methods of using them that will most cost effectively meet your needs.

Use the table below to match your required outcome with the suggested product type (in general terms) and method of application. Detailed advice on product specifications should be supplied by the compost producer.

Desired outcome	Suggested approach
Better soil structure	Regular use of fine grade, stable compost of high organic matter content. Best results obtained when it is incorporated.
Reduced soil moisture evaporation	Use composted mulch under vine.
Reduced erosion on slopes	Apply compost on soil surface under vine or in the inter-row. Also consider growing a cover crop with the compost in the inter-row.
Improved establishment and growth of young vines	Incorporate fine grade, stable compost in soil at planting, and/or use composted mulch under vine.
Better nutrient management	Regular use of fine grade, stable, high nutrient compost (e.g. manure-based composts or compost/fertiliser blends); Apply by banding under the irrigation line. Alternatively use compost in inter-row together with a cover crop.
Control weed growth	Apply composted mulch under vine. Ensure that weeds are controlled prior to mulch application. Compost should contain a mixture of coarse and fine particles.

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This exercise will go a long way in assisting your compost supplier match both your production goals and target benefits with the best product to achieve them. Some suppliers will provide products at discounted rates to encourage commercial growers to try compost. For further information, contact EcoRecycle Victoria on 9639 3322.

Further information is available from:

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