

USING BIOSOLIDS

Biosolids are carefully applied to provide only the amount of nitrogen needed by crops. These practices provide for safe and effective recycling of biosolids, while being protective of environmental quality and human health.

Biosolids are an excellent source of essential plant nutrients and organic matter. The addition of organic matter can reduce erosion by improving soil texture and structure and it also increases the soil's ability to hold moisture. By recycling biosolids, nutrients are returned to the soil where they can enhance plant growth.

Landscaping & gardening

Biosolids composted with sawdust, wood chips, yard clippings, or crop residues make excellent mulches and topsoil for horticultural and landscaping purposes. Many professional landscapers use composted biosolids for landscaping new homes and businesses. Home gardeners also find composted biosolids to be an excellent addition to planting beds and gardens.

Forestry

Biosolids are recycled in forestry to grow timber for lumber, Christmas trees, and hybrid poplars for paper. Where biosolids have been used, the trees grow faster than those on unfertilized soils. Wildlife populations often increase in these areas because the under story vegetation is more abundant.

Soil improvement

Severely disturbed soils can be reclaimed through the addition of biosolids to replace lost topsoil. Biosolids have been used successfully to reclaim surface strip mines, large construction sites, parks, and landfills. Biosolids improve soil fertility and stability, aiding re-vegetation and decreasing erosion.

Agriculture

Biosolids provide essential plant nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and zinc for healthy crops. They also promote root growth by improving soil tilth, enhancing moisture retention, and encouraging earthworms. Biosolids supply organic matter and often improve yields, both of which help control soil erosion. Your garden hose, kitchen sink sprayer, and sprinkler systems are just a few of the ways chemicals or bacteria could enter your drinking water in your home.