



**For more info
or to place an order:**

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**Approved for use
on organic farms by
Vermont Organic Farmers**

Worm Castings and Garden Compost Use Specifications

General Product Use Recommendations

Garden Compost – For use in broadcast applications, including garden, greenhouse, field crop, or landscape installation or maintenance. Builds soil organic matter and base-load nutrients, while contributing beneficial soil biology.

Worm Castings – For use in targeted applications, including seed starting, up-potting, transplant, side dress, top dress, fungal disease mitigation and management, mulching, and tea making. Castings can also be used in targeted applications on turf crops, such as putting greens, to address certain pathogens. Our castings have a uniquely robust nutrient and biological profile. In addition to available plant nutrients, these products deliver high numbers of beneficial organisms that liberate background soil nutrients, stimulate root and plant growth, increase flowering and bloom quality, and provide disease suppression. Rich in nitrogen and extremely high levels of beneficial soil organisms like protozoa. Castings positively influence plant health, root development and flowering with Plant Growth Promoting Hormones and Regulators. Tea and Soil Grade products are same product screened to different particle sizes, and therefore can be used interchangeably if necessary in most cases. The tea grade castings are higher in nitrogen and lower in carbon. Mulch product is exclusively for surface application. See specific product descriptions for further detail.

General Castings Application Specifications:

1. These castings are potent, so don't get carried away with them. There is little value in over applying and some crops are very sensitive. Always start with less than you think and increase use modestly over time based on experience.
2. Use castings according to plant needs. Plants that like high fertility and high soil organic matter, and moderate to heavy soil moisture will typically like heavier doses, whereas plants that prefer low fertility, low organic matter soils will want less, maybe even none (such as cacti).
3. Potting Mixes
 - a. Cut into mix at 5–15%; 10% for most crops by volume.
 - b. With exception of a small group of crops, such as cannabis, there is no benefit to adding more than 15% to a potting mix by volume.
 - c. Blend potting mixes 24-72 or more hours before use. Mix should be hydrated (damp) and kept loosely covered in a warm location (65F+) until use. Most crops benefit from heat mats during germination.
4. Transplants: use roughly 1 cup/plant. Approximately 80 transplants/20 quart bag of castings. Mix into soil.
5. Castings perform best when they are hydrated (damp). Always make sure you have a good, plant-appropriate watering regime.

Compost Tea – Compost tea is used to culture beneficial organisms and spread them over a large area, or apply them to the plant surface. Tea can be used for everything from houseplants to large areas, such as golf courses, orchards or tree farms. Must be applied immediately (within 2 hrs of turning off brewer). Provides low level nutrient delivery unless additional nutrients, like fish emulsion, are added to tea. Can be delivered through watering can, backpack sprayer, hydroponic or fertigation system. Good for foliar feeding, disease mitigation, and pathogen control. Requires high quality compost or castings.

General Application Specifications:

1. See brewing instructions. Ensure good aeration and chlorine-free water.
2. Dilute tea 1:1-1:2 with water before application. Apply ASAP, no more than 2 hrs after brewing.



Black Dirt Farm Castings and Compost Products

Product Use by Crop

| CROP | PRODUCT | SEEDLING PRODUCTION | TRANSPLANT | MID-SEASON SIDE DRESS | GENERAL SOIL BUILDING |
|------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Mixed Vegetables | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Direct seed: cut ½–1 cup per row foot into soil. Starts: cut into potting mix at 5–10% by volume. | 1 cup per plant hole. Work thoroughly into soil in and around hole and water before planting. | 1–2 cups around each plant. Lightly work into soil and water. Keep moist. | |
| | Tea Grade Castings | | Use as soil drench or foliar spray. Dilute 1:2 with water. | Use as soil drench or foliar spray throughout season every 1–4 weeks. Dilute 1:1 with water. | In soils with low biological activity, use compost tea to inoculate soils. Dilute 1:1 with water. |
| Tomatoes | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Cut into potting mix at 10% by volume. | 1 cup per plant hole. Work thoroughly into soil in and around hole and water before planting. | 2 cups around each plant. Lightly work into soil and water. Keep moist. | |
| | Tea Grade Castings | | Use as soil drench or foliar spray. Dilute 1:2 with water. | Use as soil drench or foliar spray throughout season every 1–4 weeks. Dilute 1:1 with water. | |
| Salad Greens | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | In flats: cut into potting mix at 10%. In soil: apply ¼ inch thick layer and work into top 2 inches of soil. | | | |
| Cannabis | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 30–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–30 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Cut into potting mix at 15% by volume. | 2–3 cups per plant hole. Work thoroughly into soil in and around hole and water before planting. | 2–4 cups around each plant or 2 cups with use of mulch as below. Lightly work into soil and water. Keep moist. | |
| | Tea Grade Castings | | Use as soil drench or foliar spray. Dilute 1:2 with water. | Use as soil drench or foliar spray throughout season every 2–4 weeks until flowering. Dilute 1:1 with water. | |
| | Inoculated Mulch | | | Apply 2–3 inch layer to soil surface, water, and keep moist. | |



Black Dirt Farm Castings and Compost Products

Product Use by Crop

| CROP | PRODUCT | SEEDLING PRODUCTION | TRANSPLANT | MID-SEASON SIDE DRESS | GENERAL SOIL BUILDING |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Annual Flowers | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Cut into potting mix at 5% by volume. | ½–1 cup per plant hole. Work thoroughly into soil in and around hole and water before planting. | 1 cup around each plant. Lightly work into soil and water. Keep moist. | |
| | Inoculated Mulch | | | Apply 2 inch layer to soil surface. | |
| Perennials | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | 4–8 quarts mixed into soil, depending on size. | | New ground: ½ lb/sq ft or 7 yards/acre. Maintenance: ¼ cubic ft/sq ft or 2.5–5 yards/acre. Tends to neutralize soil pH, adjust as needed with blueberries. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Cut into potting mix at 5–10% by volume. | ½–2 cups per plant hole. Work thoroughly into soil in and around hole and water before planting. | 1–3 cups around each plant. Lightly work into soil and water. Keep moist. | |
| | Inoculated Mulch | | | Apply 2–4 inch layer to soil surface. | |
| Non-Arid Succulent House Plants | Garden Compost | If potting mix does not already contain compost, cut into mix at 20% by volume. | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | Cut into potting mix at 5–10% by volume. | Cut into potting mix at 5–10% by volume. | ½ cup per six inches of pot diameter. Water in. Keep moist. | |
| | Inoculated Mulch | | | Apply 1–2 inch layer to soil surface. Keep moist. | |
| Grass & Turf | Garden Compost | | | | New ground: 2–3 inches; 10–20 yards/acre; 20–40 quarts/100 sq ft. Maintenance: 1–2 inches or 5–10 yards/acre; 10–20 quarts/100 sq ft. |
| | Soil Grade Castings | For high value applications, apply ¼ inch layer and incorporate lightly into top 2–4 inches of soil. | | Top dress with ⅛ inch applications. Lightly water into sod. Can be applied directly to disease sites to address fungal and bacterial diseases. Keep moist. | |
| | Tea Grade Castings | | | Apply as spray throughout season every 1–4 weeks. Dilute 1:1 with water. Make sure application equipment is free of toxins. Can be used for solid application on putting greens. | |