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### **Spring 2013 Newsletter**

Once the seemingly never-ending snow storms stop coming, spring will eventually arrive. This year's spring newsletter has no particular theme. Instead, it is compilation of articles by Agresource staff members. We hope you enjoy reading the articles and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

#### **AGRESOIL BIOSOLIDS COMPOST – HELPING TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT**

**By Melanie Rundlett**

*Composting is nature's way of recycling.* Agresource's biosolids compost is an *environmentally-friendly* product which is truly an example of recycling at its best. Residential biosolids are dewatered and mixed with clean, ground wood waste and composted in a state-of-the-art facility. As a result of this compost process, the biosolids are pasteurized and free of pathogens as well as weed seeds, is high in organic matter (over 50%) and full of soil nutrients. In addition, because the compost is produced with the same feedstocks every day, every delivery will be a consistent product.

*Agresoil's biosolids compost exceeds all the EPA "Exceptional Quality (EQ)" standards.* Unlike other composts and mulches in the marketplace (i.e. leaf, food, mushroom, manure), biosolids compost adheres to strict guidelines set forth by the EPA and each state's quality standards. Biosolids compost is registered as a soil amendment/conditioner by each state's Department of Agriculture. Monthly testing is performed on nutrient levels, metal concentrations and other required parameters and submitted to these agencies to ensure compliance of all compost. These measures insure you are purchasing high-quality compost each and every load.

*The uses for biosolids compost are many.* In soil projects, it serves as a valuable amendment. Biosolids compost will improve a soil's physical property by boosting the organic matter, decreasing runoff and erosion, therefore reducing the need for fertilizers and irrigation requirements. NYC Parks' Department has used Agresoil biosolids compost on numerous parks projects where a healthy environment in the soil was key to reducing maintenance.

*The use of biosolids compost will provide a better environment for roots!* On clay-like soils, incorporating biosolids compost will increase porosity and permeability as well as aeration and drainage. On sandy soils, biosolids compost will increase the water and nutrient holding capacity. Because of these factors, Agresoil's biosolids compost is used by soil blenders to produce an excellent growing media for athletic fields, golf course construction and maintenance and as a growing media for landscape plantings.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the benefits of using biosolids compost in your next project. *Together we can do our part in helping to create a better environment for our future.*



Lawn in forefront made with Biosolids Compost

### **Topdressing Results in New Hampshire**

**By Tim Gould**

John Stephens owner of Stephans Landscaping in Moultonborough, NH tried topdressing last fall with Agresource's Topdressing Compost which is made in Merrimack, NH. He did something most landscapers don't seem to have the time to do. He documented the results by taking pictures before the application and for three weeks following. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.



Before Topdressing



Topdressing after Aeration



Two Weeks After



Back Lawn Three Weeks After

Agresource's Topdressing Compost is used by hundreds of landscapers and lawn care professionals to provide nutrients, organic matter, and beneficial microbes as well as achieve lasting results. For more information, see our Topdressing Guide at [www.Agresourceinc.com](http://www.Agresourceinc.com).

## **Bioretention and Rain Garden Soils That Work** **By Rich Simcich**

Agresource has recognized the growing need for engineered custom soils for Bioretention basins / Rain Gardens has increased consistently every year in Connecticut, the other New England states. To address this need Agresource has been manufacturing and testing engineered soils specified by numerous landscape architects and engineers. We have found that the physical properties of the soil are key to the performance and longevity of these basins.

The basic difference between Rain Gardens and Bioretention Basins is the size of the depression required to retain and detain stormwater so it can be filtered and discharged into receiving waters. The physical properties of the soil must be designed to treat the volume of runoff that can be stored as well

as filtering suspended solids and target pollutants. These pollutants can then be absorbed by soil to reduce nutrient export through plant material uptake, filtering and sorption. Bioretention Basins usually have engineered under drains and overflow structures to discharge larger volumes of treated stormwater which are collected from impervious surfaces.

Contractors have recognized the value of using Agresource to manufacture the specific types of soils required by the architects for these projects. Many contractors have been through the costly process of re-submitting soil samples that get rejected. They have found that it is most cost-effective to rely on Agresource's experience to deliver soils that meet specifications and help keep on schedule.



Commerical Plaza Rain Garden

