

SAFETY DATA SHEET

Mulch (Composted)

Hazardous (“Xn” Harmful, “Xi” Irritant) according to the *Approved
Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances*
[NOHSC:1008(2004)]



**Australian
Standard**
AS 4454 Lic 2105
SAIGlobal

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2 December 2005

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Section 1 – Identification of the Material and Supplier

Product (Material) Name:	Composted Mulch
Other Names:	Composted Fines, Nitra Mulch
Recommended Use:	Garden/ Landscaping/ Horticultural/ Agricultural/ Rehabilitation Mulch
Supplier Name:	Peats Soil & Garden Supplies Pty Ltd
Supplier Address:	22 Flour Mill Rd, Whites Valley, SA 5172
Supplier Tel:	08 8556 5295
Supplier Fax:	08 8557 7550
Supplier Emergency Tel (24 Hours):	0418 791 921
Emergency Services Tel (24 Hours):	000

Section 2 – Hazards Identification

Hazard Classification: **HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE. NON DANGEROUS GOODS.**
Due to the small particles in this product it is classified as a hazardous substance according to the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(2004)]:
“Xn” Harmful
“Xi” Irritant

Risk Phrases: R42 May cause sensitisation by inhalation.
R43 May cause sensitisation by skin contact.

Safety Phrases:

- Do not breathe dust.
- Avoid contact with skin.
- Avoid contact with eyes.
- Wear suitable gloves.
- Use only in well-ventilated areas.

Section 3 – Composition/ Information on Ingredients

Chemical Identity of the Pure Substance: Not Applicable.

Common Names/ Synonym's: Composted Mulch.

CAS Number: Not Applicable.

Section 4 – First Aid Measures

Facilities should be available where this product is used to carry out first aid procedures.

Description of Necessary First Aid Measures

Ingestion: Swallowing this product may cause immediate or delayed abdominal discomfort and potentially increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections.

The patient should be given water to drink and medical attention should be sought if any abdominal symptoms occur. Vomiting should not be induced, but if vomiting occurs, the patient should be leant forward or placed on their left hand side to maintain an open airway.

Eye: In the event that this material or the dust comes into contact with the eyes it may have an immediate or delayed irritating effect resulting in redness, watering and/ or infection.

Eyes should be immediately and thoroughly flushed with lukewarm water for as long as necessary to alleviate the problem (or for at least 15 minutes). Ensure complete irrigation of the eye by keeping eyelids apart and away from eye and moving the eyelids by occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids. Removal of contact lenses after an eye injury should only be conducted skilled personnel. Professional medical assistance should be sought if symptoms persist.

Skin: Skin contact with this product and/or their dusts may lead to immediate or delayed skin irritations and in susceptible people skin sensitisation, dermatitis and/or skin infection.

The affected areas should be washed thoroughly with mild soap and lukewarm water as quickly as possible.

Inhalation: Inhalation of dust from this product may have an immediate or delayed effect to irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and exacerbate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis. The repeated inhalation of dust from these products may lead to asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia or other pneumonia-like illnesses (e.g. Legionnaires disease). Children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions or the immuno-compromised, may be at a particular risk from these illnesses if exposed to this product.

If an irritation occurs, the affected parties should be moved (or move themselves) away from the product or its dusts into a source of fresh air. The patient should be laid down, kept warm and be rested.

Prostheses such as false teeth, which may block the airways, should be removed where possible prior to initiating first aid procedures.

Professional medical attention should be sought if symptoms persist.

Specific Medical Attention and Treatment

There are no special treatments for compost. Conditions should be treated symptomatically. All people who come into contact with this product should safeguard themselves adequately from tetanus.

Section 5 – Fire Fighting Measures

Suitable Extinguishing Media: Water or Class A extinguishers.

Hazards from Combustion Products: The product may combust or spontaneously self combust in large stockpiles with internal temperatures

**Precautions For Fire Fighters
and Special Protective Equipment:**

around 75+ degrees Celsius plus.
Temperatures should be monitored
by your organisation and sufficient
water should be soaked into the
pile.

No special precautions. Use
standard fire fighting equipment for
Class A fires.

Section 6 – Accidental Release Measures

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a spill or release of the product from a transport vehicle or storage area where bunding does not exist in order to contain and clean up:

1. Advise the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA): 1800 018 313
(if a spill occurs from a transport vehicle)
2. Advise the South Australia EPA on the 08 8204 2004 (non-
emergency) pollution line and complete any necessary 0427 600 323
(emergency)
reports as advised. 0428 111 379 (emergency)
3. Advise the product supplier emergency contact: 0418 791 921

Methods and Materials for Containment and Clean Up Procedures

In the event of a spill or release of the product from a transport vehicle or storage area where bunding does not exist in order to contain and clean up:

- Secure the site by:
 - covering the material with a sheet/ tarpaulin secured to the ground in order to protect against dust emissions and gravitational flows into waterways.
 - bunding the area and cover drains to protect against over-ground run-off in waterways, surrounding land and drainage systems.

- Clean up the spill immediately once the site is secured. Avoid generating dust.
- Collect the material (using a vacuum system if required), load, transport and store all of the material released for use as planned or dispose of safely in a putrescible waste suitable landfill.
- Check the surrounding area to ensure all material has been captured. Collect all material if possible or seek South Australian EPA advice if this has not been possible on 08 8204 2004 (non-emergency) or 0427 600 323 / 0428 111 379 (emergency).

Section 7 – Handling and Storage

Precautions for Safe Handling

This product may contain some small levels of foreign materials including plastics, glass, sharps and other contamination as it contains some materials sourced from community recycling programs. When handling this material ensure that workers stay away from equipment that is moving and/ or processing exposed material and avoid coming into contact with the product by wearing:

- A suitable respiratory protective device conforming with AS/NZS 1715: 1994 – Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices. A Class P1 Particulate Respirator is typically most appropriate.
- Suitable gloves conforming with AS/ NZS 2161: 2000 – Occupational protective gloves. Standard duty leather/pigskin, rubber or neoprene gloves are typically most appropriate.
- Full length protective trousers and shirts (or overalls).
- Suitable boots for the site.
- Suitable eye protection conforming with AS/ NZS 1336: 1997 – Recommended practices for occupational eye protection. Low impact goggles with indirect ventilation (HT or CT with C, D optional) are typically most appropriate.

Additional handling procedures should include:

- Limit exposure to the product.
- Wash any areas of the body that the product may have come into contact after exposure.
- Launder protective work clothes prior to re-use.
- Check the atmosphere regularly against the relevant exposure standards (Section 8).
- Regularly vacuum enclosed areas where the product is used or install another a dust extraction system.
- Apply the material using a suitable garden or horticultural instrument.

When handling this material ensure the environment is protected from releases by not moving the material during adverse weather conditions such as wind and precipitation, bunding the handling area and providing wind breaks.

Conditions for Safe Storage

When storing this material:

- Protect stockpiles from wind and other adverse weather with a sheet/ tarpaulin or wind break secured to the ground.
- Bund the storage area.

Section 8 – Exposure Controls/ Personal Protection

National Exposure Standards

No specific exposure standards have been allocated for compost and soil products. However due to the dust in the product, concentrations for monitoring exposure are provided by a number of standards as listed below:

- **Total Inhalable Dust**
10mg/m³ (National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, 2004).
- **Total Respirable Dust**
2mg/m³ (American Conference of Governmental Occupational Hygienists, 1986).

Biological Limit Values:	No Biological Limit Allocated.
Engineering Controls:	Use only in well-ventilated areas.
Personal Protection Equipment:	Breathing masks (respirator), gloves, full length overalls, boots, safety glasses.

Section 9 – Physical and Chemical Properties

Appearance:	A rich brown humus mulch material with some fine particles and woody pieces.
Odour:	An earthy odour.
pH:	4.5 to 7.5 in water.
Vapour Pressure:	Not Relevant.
Vapour Density:	Not Relevant.
Boiling Point/ Range:	Not Relevant.
Freezing/ Melting Point:	Not Relevant.
Solubility:	Not Soluble.
Specific Gravity or Density:	Approx. 2.5-3.0 cubic metres per tonne (m ³ /t).
Flashpoint:	Not Relevant.
Information for Flammable Materials:	Not Flammable.

Section 10 – Stability and Reactivity

Chemical Stability:	Stable.
Conditions to Avoid:	None.
Incompatible Materials:	None.
Hazardous Decomposition Products:	None.
Hazardous Reactions:	None.

Section 11 – Toxicological Information

Acute Health Effects

Ingestion: Ingestion is unlikely through normal use. However, swallowing any amount of this product may cause immediate or delayed abdominal discomfort and potentially increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections.

It is not recommended to repeatedly swallow this material.

Eye: In the event that any dose of this material or the dust comes into contact with the eyes it may have an immediate or delayed irritating effect resulting in redness and watering or an infection.

It is not recommended to repeatedly allow this material to come into contact with the eyes.

Skin: Any level of skin contact with this product and/or their dusts may lead to immediate or delayed skin irritations and in susceptible people skin sensitisation, dermatitis or skin infection.

It is not recommended for people susceptible to skin irritations to repeatedly allow this material to come into contact with the skin.

Inhalation: Inhalation of any amount of dust from this product may have an immediate or delayed effect to irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and exacerbate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

It is not recommended for people to repeatedly inhale this material.

Chronic Health Effects

The repeated inhalation of dust from these products may lead to respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation and illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia or other pneumonia-like illnesses (e.g. Legionnaires disease). Children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions or the immuno-compromised, may be at a particular risk from these illnesses if exposed to this product. It is not recommended to

repeatedly swallow this material or repeatedly allow it to come into contact with the eyes. All people who come into contact with this product should safeguard themselves from tetanus.

Section 12 – Ecological Information

Ecotoxicity: R53 May cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

Persistence/ Degradability: Not harmfully persistent, no harmful degrading.

Mobility: Only mobile in significant water and wind.

Section 13 – Disposal Considerations

Disposal Methods: Putrescible waste suitable landfill.

Special Precautions for Landfill or Incineration: Not Relevant.

Section 14 – Transport Information

UN Number: None.

Proper Shipping Name: None.

Class and Subsidiary Risk(s): None.

Packing Group: None.

Special Precautions for User: Trucks to use a tarpaulin to cover the load.

Hazchem Code: None.

No other special storage or transport requirements necessary.

Section 15 – Regulatory Information

Not Relevant.

Section 16 – Other Information

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Specific Query Contact

Name: Peter Wadewitz
Position: Managing Director
Query Tel: 0418 791 921

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