

Soil Amendments & Fertilisers



Growers use inputs such as seeds, seedlings, soil, soil amendments and fertilisers. Soil amendments and fertilisers that contain manure may represent a food safety risk.

Suitable soil amendments



Most treated soil amendments are safe

Soil amendments include products such as manure, animal by-products (e.g. bone, blood, feather meal, fish emulsion), agricultural teas, chemical fertilisers, and compost.

Chemical fertilisers and treated animal by-products have a lower risk of containing dangerous microbes (pathogens).

Only use agricultural teas made from properly composted materials and safe water. Teas made from untreated animal materials and/or contaminated water are high risk.

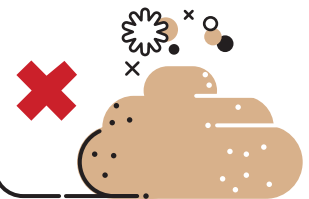
Untreated amendments

Never apply human waste to crops. The risk of contamination is very high. Biosolids are not allowed to be used to grow fruits and vegetables either.

Untreated soil amendments made from manure often contain dangerous microbes (pathogens) that can make people sick.

Untreated manure should be incorporated into the soil 90-120 days before harvest. Raw manure should not be used to grow short-term crops such as leafy vegetables and herbs. Raw manure should be stored away from fields and facilities where produce is handled.

Proper composting ensures the reduction of dangerous microbes. Composting requires heat, aeration/ turning, moisture, and time.



Do not use raw manure

Safety and precautions



Wear gloves when handling soil amendments

Keep composted materials covered and away from waste and rubbish to prevent recontamination by birds or rodents.

Acceptable compost should be treated in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4454-2012. Check with your suppliers that composts meet the minimum Standard requirements for composted or pasteurised product, physical and chemical requirements, as well as consumer and health warning information.

Apply properly-composted materials during pre-planting or in the early stages of growth. Apply near the roots and incorporate the material into the soil.

Wear gloves during the application of soil amendments and always wash your hands after application.

Keep records of what, where, and how much soil amendment you apply for each application. Refer to the Traceability Guide for more information.