Top 10 Reasons to Use Mushroom Compost in Landscaping & Lawn Care

1. Suppresses sporulation of the artillery fungus in landscape mulch.
2. Decrease or eliminate the cost of liming by using a low cost, consistently high quality organic fertilizer of Mushroom Compost.
3. Restore soil structure by improving soil quality, nutrient content and beneficial soil microbe population and activity.
4. Improve water retention during drought conditions and in poor soils.
5. Mushroom Compost's organic nutrient values are verifiably consistent and available year round.
6. It is sustainable agriculture and a good environmental stewardship practice, providing a nutrient rich soil amendment in a complete ecological recycling process.
7. Addition of compost reverses soil organic matter depletion, providing improved turfgrass and plant production.
8. Composting stabilizes nitrogen and reduces nitrate leaching.
9. Improved water infiltration in clay soils.
10. Mushroom Compost is a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) accepted fertilizer and PA Preferred product. **(www.agriculture.state.pa.us/papreferred)**

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PA Preferred™ REGISTERED PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

American Mushroom Institute

www.mushroomcompost.org

Commercial Applications that Include Mushroom Compost

- ✓ Mine reclamation projects
- ✓ Wetland material
- ✓ Storm water management basins
- ✓ Stream retrofit material
- ✓ Highway site remediation
- ✓ Parking lot islands
- ✓ Green roofs
- ✓ Filtration socks
- ✓ Compost blankets
- ✓ Erosion control
- ✓ Filters heavy metals

Relative Value Of Fresh Mushroom Compost To Commercial Fertilizers

Numbers are calculated from a wet volume basis.

1 ton MC
(equivalent to 3.5 cubic yards)

Nitrogen (N) = 22.27 lbs/ton

Phosphate (P_2O_5) = 13.29 lbs/ton

Potash (K_2O) = 24.70 lbs/ton

Using Mushroom Compost to Prevent Artillery Fungus

WHAT IS MUSHROOM COMPOST?

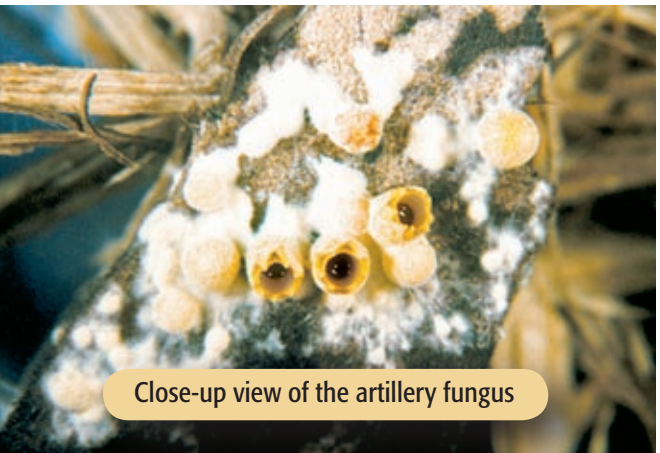
Mushroom Compost is the composted result of a rich medium for growing mushrooms. It is made from agricultural materials, such as hay, straw, straw horse bedding, poultry litter, cottonseed meal, cocoa shells and gypsum. Sphagnum peat moss adds to the organic nature of the substrate, providing a consistent, formulated and homogeneous product.

After mushrooms are harvested, the Mushroom Compost is steam treated prior to removal to eliminate any pests, pathogens and weed seeds resulting in a PDA accepted fertilizer product.

Mushroom Compost has high water and nutrient holding capacity and exhibits no nitrogen draw down problems. As a fertilizer and organic soil amendment, Mushroom Compost supports plant growth in a variety of applications to the lawn and landscape and inhibits the artillery fungus.

What Is the Artillery Fungus ?

The artillery fungus, identified as a *Sphaerobous sp.*, has become a serious problem in landscape mulch, particularly in wood-based mulches. Mixing Mushroom Compost with landscape mulch can help suppress growth and sporulation of the artillery fungus.



Close-up view of the artillery fungus

What Essential Plant Nutrients Are in Mushroom Compost?

From 30 random samples of fresh Mushroom Compost, Dr. Michael Fidanza, Associate Professor of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State University (Reading, PA), published these results.

Mean of Parameters Measured/Calculated On a Wet Volume Basis:

bulk density	574.73 lbs/yd^3
pH	6.62
C:N (carbon-to-nitrogen) ratio	12.79 : 1
soluble salts (1:5 w:w)	13.27 mmhos/cm

	lbs/yd^3	%
solids	243.37	42.35
moisture	331.47	57.67
organic matter	146.73	25.53
carbon (C)	81.13	14.12
total nitrogen (N)	6.40	1.12
organic nitrogen (Organic-N)	6.19	1.08
ammonium nitrogen (NH_4-N)	0.21	0.04
phosphorus as P_2O_5	3.82	0.67
potassium as K_2O	7.10	1.24
calcium (Ca)	13.17	2.29
magnesium (Mg)	2.01	0.35
sulfur (S)	4.91	0.85
iron (Fe)	1.07	0.19
manganese (Mn)	0.12	0.02
copper (Cu)	0.04	0.01
sodium (Na)	0.67	0.12
aluminum (Al)	0.89	0.15
zinc (Zn)	0.05	0.01

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Why Is the Artillery Fungus a Problem ?

The fruiting body of this fungus orients itself towards bright surfaces, such as light-colored houses or parked automobiles. The artillery fungus "shoots" its black, sticky spore masses, which can be windblown as high as the second story of a house. The spore masses stick to the side of a building or automobile and resemble a small speck of tar. They also occur on the undersides of leaves on plants growing in mulched areas.

Once in place, the spore mass is very difficult to remove without damaging the surface to which it is attached. If removed, it leaves a stain. A few of these spots are barely noticeable but as they accumulate, they become unsightly on houses or cars.

How Does Mushroom Compost Help?

According to research studies at Penn State by Dr. Donald Davis, when Mushroom Compost is mixed with mulch in proportions of just 20 to 40 percent, the artillery fungus is inhibited.