



Healthy Soil Amendments

Decisions, Decisions

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Key Points

- *Work with the natural ecosystem - Enhance the habitat*
- *Define characteristics of the site*
- *Determine characteristics of the amendments*
- *Know top dressing vs incorporated amendments*
- *Understand Nitrate Depression Period and its ramifications*
- *Well-decomposed compost should smell good, be crumbly, dark brown and indistinguishable in origin*

Resources

Biochar Information

<https://www.biochar-journal.org/en/ct/47>

<https://biochar.international/the-biochar-opportunity/biochar-production-and-by-products/>

Biosolid Information

<http://www.biosolids.com/basics.html>

Compost Information

<https://compostingcouncil.org/>

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?&cid=nrcs143_023537

Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS)

<https://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/turf/extension/factsheets/mushroom-soil>

<https://extension.psu.edu/spent-mushroom-substrate>

Additional Reading (Interesting stuff)

The Nature and Properties of Soils, Weil and Brady, 15th Edition (Yes, I always recommend this book!)
A must read for anyone seriously interested in learning more about soils.

The Importance of Soil Organic Matter, FAO Soils Bulletin 80

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-a0100e.pdf>

Soil Biology Primer, online version

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/biology/>

Urban Soil Primer, online version

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_052835.pdf

Cornell Soil Health Manual, online version

<http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/training-manual/>