

COMPOST FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENT AND PLANT GROWTH

**A GUIDE FOR THE CONSUMER
FROM THE
TOWN OF VALDESE WWTP
LAKE RHODHISS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
2100 Lake Rhodhiss Drive
P.O. Box 339
Valdese, NC 28690
(828)879-2131**

For further technical guidance contact the
Burke County Agricultural Extension Service Agent
@ (828)439-4460
Or the Agricultural Extension Service Agent from your county

THE COMPOSTING PROCESS

The method of composting used at the Lake Rhodhiss WWTP (owned by the Town of Valdese) is the **Aerated Static Pile Method**. Sewage sludge is dewatered to approximately 20% solids, mixed with a bulking agent (wood chips or veneer scraps), and aerated for 21 days. The aeration accelerates the natural decomposition of the sludge and wood material. Conditions are maintained in such a way as to assure that all parts of the compost pile reach a minimum of 131 degrees Fahrenheit for at least three consecutive days. This temperature has been determined to kill virtually all harmful bacteria and other pathogenic organisms. The compost pile also maintains a temperature of 113 degrees for at least 14 consecutive days. The final product is a rich, black, humus-like material. This compost product has value as a soil conditioner and as a low-grade fertilizer.

The Aerated Static Pile Method of composting is approved by the EPA as an affective method of sludge stabilization and pathogen reduction. The Town of Valdese operates the composting under **PERMIT NO. WQ 0001990** issued by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

Application of residuals to land is prohibited except in accordance with the instructions on this information sheet. Biosolids shall be prevented from entering any public or private water supply source (including wells) and any stream, lake, or river. Residuals shall not be applied to any site that is flooded, frozen or snow-covered. Adequate care should be taken to prevent surface runoff from carrying any disposed or stored residuals into any surface waters





