



## Tree and Shrub Applications

**Two types of TEMESI Compost are available** (both types are free of weed seeds, pests and pathogens)

1. Raw Compost (Kompos Mentah): **Only for top-dressing**  
Specification: Nitrate/Ammonium Ratio = 2 to 20, therefore not fully cured, might smell of ammonia  
Note: If raw compost is mixed with soil it will continue to cure. Instead that compost adds nutrients to the soil, the curing microorganisms rob nitrogen from the soil to build their own body mass.
2. Cured Compost (Kompost Matang): **For all other applications**  
Specification: Nitrate/Ammonium Ratio = minimum 20, therefore virtually cured with pleasant earthy smell.

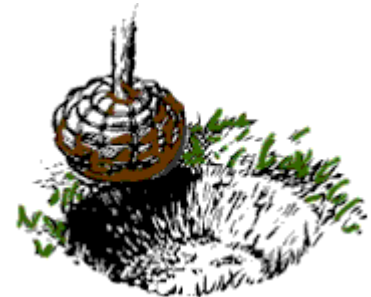
### Advantages of compost applications in fields and plantations:

- Increasing the humus layer  
compost enriches the soil with humus and beneficial microorganisms
- Increasing the fertility  
compost supports faster and healthier plant growth
- Replacement of chemical fertilizer  
should be done gradually by phasing out chemical fertilizers and phasing in compost
- Slow release fertilizer  
compost releases nutrients continuously over a year or more

### Planting Trees

When planting a tree, Cured Compost can be added to the tree hole to improve the existing soil. The tree hole should be twice as wide and slightly shallower than the root ball. Fill three quarters of the hole with existing soil and one quarter with compost. Be sure that you don't add too much compost, as the tree roots will not grow past this gold mine of organic matter, depriving the tree of the stability of a deep root system. If this is of no concern, plant trees and shrubs in soil that has been blended with no more than 25 % compost.

Try to make sure that the soil of the root ball matches the texture of the native soil. A simple test is to feel the soil texture. If the root ball is a sandy soil and the native soil is clay based, the tree will be fighting to survive. Applying compost to the back-filled soil will help by easing the transition between soil types, but it does not necessarily create the ideal situation for the tree.



### Tree & Shrub Maintenance

You can apply Raw Compost as mulch by layering up to 5 centimeters of compost under the tree or shrub out to the drip line (the outermost leaves on a tree) or edge of the bed. This will help reduce moisture loss and stabilize soil temperature.

You can also incorporate Cured Compost into the soil once or twice a year to provide organic nutrients. Before adding Cured Compost to compacted soils, gently cultivate the soil with a hand tool; this will prevent damage to shallow feeder roots while making nutrients more readily accessible to the trees or shrubs.

Do not place compost or mulch directly against the bark of the tree or shrub or on exposed woody roots as this could cause rot and invite pests and disease.

