

## Potting Mixes, Composts, Organic Materials

### Section 1 - Identification of Chemical Product and Company

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**Product Name:** Potting Mixes, Composts, Organic Garden Materials  
**Product Use:** Organic Gardening products  
**Creation Date:** June, 2004  
**Revision Date:** February, 2008

### Section 2 - Hazards Identification

**Statement of Hazardous Nature:** The dust and mists (bio-aerosols) from this product are hazardous according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

Not a Dangerous Good according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code.

**Risk Phrases:** R36/37 Irritating to eyes, respiratory system

**Safety Phrases:** S22/25/38 Do not breathe dust, avoid contact with eyes, if insufficient ventilation wear respiratory equipment

**SUSDP Classification:** None allocated.

**ADG Classification:** None allocated. Not a Dangerous Good.

**UN Number:** None allocated

#### Emergency Overview

**Physical Description & colour:** Brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances.

**Odour:** Non specific earthy odour

**Major Health Hazards:** Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illnesses ranging from hay fever and asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, and the immune compromised are at particular risk from these illnesses. All people working with these and other landscaping and horticultural products should ensure that they are adequately protected from tetanus.

#### Potential Health Effects

##### Inhalation:

**Short term exposure:** Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists (bio-aerosols) may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and aggravate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

**Long Term exposure:** Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illnesses ranging from hay fever and asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses.

##### Skin Contact:

**Short term exposure:** Skin contact with these products and their dusts and/or liquid mists (bio-aerosols) may result in skin irritation

**Long Term exposure:** May lead to skin sensitisation, dermatitis or skin infection in some sensitive individuals

##### Eye Contact:

**Short term exposure:** The dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering, or eye infection.

**Long Term exposure:** No data for health effects associated with long term eye exposure.

##### Ingestion:

**Short term exposure:** Unlikely under normal conditions. Swallowing compost and potting mixes may cause abdominal discomfort and increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections

**Long Term exposure:** No data for health effects associated with long term ingestion.

### MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

**Carcinogen Status:****NOHSC:** No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NOHSC.**NTP:** No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NTP.**IARC:** No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by IARC.

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**Section 3 - Composition/Information on Ingredients**

Ingredients	CAS No	Conc, %	TWA (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	STEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Organic & mineral components	N/A	100%	not set	not set

Composts, potting mixes and other organic gardening materials are made by blending naturally occurring materials including: plant mulch, topsoil, sand, wood dust, manure and mushroom compost. The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa.

*Exposure limits have not been established by ASCC for any of the significant ingredients in this product. There is a blanket limit of 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> for dusts or mists when limits have not otherwise been established. The nature of this product makes it unlikely that this level will be approached in normal use*

*The TWA exposure value is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8 hour working day for a 5 day working week. The STEL (Short Term Exposure Limit) is an exposure value that should not be exceeded for more than 15 minutes and should not be repeated for more than 4 times per day.*

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**Section 4 - First Aid Measures****General Information:**

You should call The Poisons Information Centre if you feel that you may have been poisoned or irritated by this product. The number is 13 1126 from anywhere in Australia (0800 764 766 in New Zealand) and is available at all times. Have this MSDS with you when you call.

**Inhalation:** Remove to fresh air. First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

**Skin Contact:** Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water. If irritation does occur, obtain medical advice.

**Eye Contact:** Quickly and gently blot or brush product away. Flush the contaminated eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water until the product is removed or until irritation has ceased, while holding the eyelid(s) open. Obtain medical advice if irritation becomes painful or lasts more than a few minutes.

**Ingestion:** Give water to drink. Seek medical attention if any abdominal symptoms

**Advice to Doctor:** Treat symptomatically

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**Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures**

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** There is no risk of an explosion from this product under normal circumstances if it is involved in a fire.

Only small quantities of decomposition products are expected from this product at temperatures normally achieved in a fire. This will only occur after heating to dryness.

**Extinguishing Media:** Not Combustible. Use extinguishing media suited to burning materials.

**Fire Fighting:** If a significant quantity of this product is involved in a fire, call the fire brigade.

**Flash point:** Does not burn.

**Upper Flammability Limit:** Does not burn.

**Lower Flammability Limit:** Does not burn.

**Auto-ignition temperature:** Not applicable - does not burn.

**Flammability Class:** Does not burn.

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**Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures**

**Accidental release:** In the event of a major spill, prevent spillage from entering drains or water courses. As a minimum, goggles and gloves should be worn. Suitable materials for protective clothing include rubber, PVC. If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in the cleanup area, it is recommended that you use a respirator.

Sweep up and shovel or collect recoverable product for recycling or salvage. If a significant quantity of material enters drains, advise emergency services. This material is suitable for approved landfill. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal.

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## Section 7 - Handling and Storage

**Handling:** Check Section 8 of this MSDS for details of personal protective measures, and make sure that those measures are followed. The measures detailed below under "Storage" should be followed during handling in order to minimise risks to persons using the product in the workplace. Also, avoid contact or contamination of product with incompatible materials listed in Section 10.

**Storage:** Store in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area. Make sure that the product does not come into contact with substances listed under "Materials to avoid" in Section 10.

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## Section 8 - Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

The following Australian Standards will provide general advice regarding safety clothing and equipment:

Respiratory equipment: **AS/NZS 1715**, Protective Gloves: **AS 2161**, Industrial Clothing: **AS2919**, Industrial Eye Protection: **AS1336** and **AS/NZS 1337**, Occupational Protective Footwear: **AS/NZS2210**.

**Exposure Limits: TWA (mg/m<sup>3</sup>) STEL (mg/m<sup>3</sup>) ADI NOEL**

*Exposure limits have not been established by ASCC for any of the significant ingredients in this product. There is a blanket limit of 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> for dusts or mists when limits have not otherwise been established.*

*No ADI or NOEL set for any ingredients of this product*

*ADI means Acceptable Daily Intake and NOEL means No-observable-effect.*

No special equipment is usually needed when occasionally handling small quantities. The following instructions are for bulk handling or where regular exposure in an occupational setting occurs without proper containment systems.

**Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation in working area so that exposure to dust or bio-aerosols are kept to a minimum.

**Eye Protection:** Eye protection such as protective glasses or goggles is recommended when this product is being used.

**Skin Protection:** Wear protective gloves, long sleeves and trousers to minimise possible irritation.

**Protective Material Types:** There is no specific recommendation for any particular protective material type.

**Respirator:** Wear an approved respirator as above when exposed to dust or liquid mists

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## Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties:

**Physical Description & colour:** Brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances.

**Odour:** Non specific earthy odour

**Boiling Point:** N/A

**Freezing/Melting Point:** Solid at normal temperatures

**Volatiles:** N/A

**Vapour Pressure:** N/A

**Vapour Density:** N/A

**Bulk Density** Approx 0.70

**Water Solubility:** Not soluble

**pH:** 5-7.5

**Volatility:** N/A

**Odour Threshold:** No data.

**Evaporation Rate:** N/A

**Coeff Oil/water distribution:** N/A

**Auto-ignition temp:** N/A - does not burn.

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## Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

**Reactivity:** This product is unlikely to react or decompose under normal storage conditions

**Conditions to Avoid:** Store in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area.

**Incompatibilities:** No particular Incompatibilities.

**Fire Decomposition:** Only small quantities of decomposition products are expected from this product at temperatures normally achieved in a fire.

**Polymerisation:** This product does not undergo polymerisation.

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## Section 11 - Toxicological Information

Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illnesses ranging from hay fever and asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, and the immune compromised are at particular risk from these illnesses. All people working with these and other landscaping and horticultural products should ensure that they are adequately protected from tetanus.

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## Section 12 - Ecological Information

No Ecological Toxic Effects recorded for this product

**Effects on Aquatic Organisms:** No data

**Effects on Other Animals:** No data available but unlikely to be toxic to animals

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## Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

This material is suitable for approved landfill. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal. Recycle plastic bags or containers.

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## Section 14 - Transport Information

**ADG Code:** This product is not classified as a Dangerous Good. No special transport conditions are necessary unless required by other regulations.

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## Section 15 - Regulatory Information

Bio-aerosols listed as hazardous by Worksafe Australia

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## Section 16 - Other Information

**This MSDS contains only safety-related information. For other data see product literature.**

### Acronyms:

<b>ADG Code</b>	Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail
<b>AICS</b>	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances
<b>CAS number</b>	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
<b>Hazchem Number</b>	Emergency action code of numbers and letters that provide information to emergency services especially firefighters
<b>IARC</b>	International Agency for Research on Cancer
<b>NOHSC</b>	National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
<b>NOS</b>	Not otherwise specified
<b>NTP</b>	National Toxicology Program (USA)
<b>R-Phrase</b>	Risk Phrase
<b>SUSDP</b>	Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs & Poisons
<b>UN Number</b>	United Nations Number

THIS MSDS SUMMARISES OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD INFORMATION OF THE PRODUCT AND HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE AND USE THE PRODUCT IN THE WORKPLACE. EACH USER MUST REVIEW THIS MSDS IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE PRODUCT WILL BE HANDLED AND USED IN THE WORKPLACE.

IF CLARIFICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT AN APPROPRIATE RISK ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE, THE USER SHOULD CONTACT THIS COMPANY SO WE CAN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OUR SUPPLIERS. OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS SOLD IS SUBJECT TO OUR STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, A COPY OF WHICH IS SENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Please read all labels carefully before using product.

This MSDS is prepared in accord with the NOHSC document "National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets" 2nd Edition [NOHSC:2011(2003)]

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