Soil amendments such as compost, compost tea, and inoculants are materials that can build soil fertility and support and enhance the microbiology of the soil. Compost is made by decomposition of organic materials. When used and managed properly, it can be an effective method for building soil fertility by increasing organic matter, improving soil structure, pH, and the water holding capacity of the soil, as well as increasing the number of beneficial microorganisms. Compost tea (a liquid brewed from compost) and inoculants are used to specifically increase microbial abundance and improve fungal:bacteria ratios which assists in delivering nutrients more efficiently to plants. All of these choices have been shown to increase crop yields and reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic fertilizers while restoring depleted soil and improving carbon sequestration, especially in conjunction with other regenerative farming methods.

**Benefits**

- Increases soil quality and fertility
- Improves soil microbiology
- Compost increases soil organic carbon
- Restores depleted soil
- Increases available nutrients
- Reduces or eliminates the need for synthetic fertilizer
- Increases crop yields
- Increases carbon sequestration

**Potential Considerations**

- Initial costs and space requirements to make your own
- Sourcing appropriate ingredients if not using freely available farm residue
- Time to let the compost mature fully
- Management for environmental concerns such as odor and dust with compost piles
- Equipment for making or applying the product
Resources

Making and Using On-Farm Compost

Tipsheet: Compost

Assessing Compost Quality for Agriculture

Notes on Compost Tea
Free publication by ATTRA compares compost teas with compost extracts, and describes methods and equipment for compost tea production. https://bit.ly/3fSgtEL

Soil Inoculants
Publication by University of Georgia Extension that provides an overview of the practice in regards to biofertilizers and biopesticides. https://bit.ly/2RtT1nW

Task Force Recommendations

Research on Compost, Compost Tea, and Inoculants


Learn more about soil amendments at The Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems https://bit.ly/3oBjzj8