



SANTIAM GREEN

Stayton's Exceptional Quality (EQ) Class-A Biosolids

How it works

Biosolids products available to the public for gardening and landscaping meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Exceptional Quality" Class A requirements. This means that 100% of pathogens are killed, and metal concentrations are extremely low (typical of other soil products). Extensive monitoring and testing is used to ensure that these products meet this standard.

Can I eat food grown with Biosolids?

Yes! Biosolids are applied in amounts that meet the exact nutrient needs of the crop, and are kept far away from streams, wetlands, wells, and other sensitive areas. Research shows food grown with biosolids has more protein and higher yields than food grown without biosolids, and contains no harmful chemicals.

A recent risk assessment by Kennedy/Jenks and the University of Washington found that you would have to work with biosolids for many, many lifetimes before you would even get one dose of ibuprofen. Most of us won't live that long! Scientists couldn't find any pharmaceuticals in wheat grain that was grown with biosolids.

Biosolids have many benefits for urban landscapes and gardens:

- As a fertilizer - Biosolids products add essential plant nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and micronutrients to the soil. These nutrients are released slowly as plants need them, which protects local water quality from nutrient leaching and reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers.
- As a soil amendment (soil builder or soil conditioner) - Composts and other biosolids products don't just add nutrients, they also improve the physical characteristics of the soil. Compact and clay heavy soils are broken up and made lighter, which allows them to drain more effectively, while sandy soils amended with biosolids products hold water better.

- As a mulch - Some biosolids products can be used as a mulch, which reduces watering needs, prevents weeds from sprouting, and adds beauty to the landscape.
- As a potting medium: When mixed with bark, biosolids products provide an ideal medium for potted plants and nursery and greenhouse container production. Biosolids compost makes an excellent substitute for manure composts, peat moss, or other ingredients in typical soil mixes.

Many nurseries in the Pacific Northwest use biosolids potting mixes, and research backs up these high performing mixes.

With the construction of the sludge dryer in 2012, the City is now producing exceptional quality Class A biosolids.

Thermal Drying

The City of Stayton dries aerated sludge with a Therma-Flite, IC 3600 Automated, indirect heated dryer. We continually meet the pathogen reduction and vector attraction reduction rules for Exceptional Quality Class A Biosolids for use with no restrictions.

Information obtained from City of Stayton as well as NW Biosolids.

