

# Summary of Compost & Compost-Related Fertilizer Regulations

## RHODE ISLAND

Updated May 2010

### Introduction

Nationally, organics, such as food and yard waste, constitute more than 25% of the municipal solid waste stream. And, this doesn't even include animal waste, such as manure. There is a renewed interest in diverting organics to compost and in producing value added products.

This document provides an overview of the existing laws as they pertain to the production of compost and fertilizer from compost. It is critical information for any compost processor or producer of fertilizer from compost. In addition to an overview of the laws, where they are available, hyperlinks to the full text are provided, as well as contact information for the regulatory agencies.

### Compost

Contact: [Chris Shafer](#), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, (401) 942-1430

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management requires mixed solid waste composting facilities to obtain a license through the Office of Waste Management. Leaf and yard waste, and putrescible waste composting facilities are required to register with the Office of Waste Management.

### Definitions

Backyard Composting - shall mean the composting on a residential site of certain wastes generated only at the site and where the compost produced is utilized on site and is not distributed or marketed. Wastes which may be composted include leaf and yard waste, certain food wastes including fruits and vegetables, tea leaves, coffee grounds, and egg shells: hair, sawdust, manures from animals that eat only plants, and other wastes acceptable to the Department for backyard composting.

Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Facility - shall mean a facility that is required to be registered with the Department that is designated and operated to compost leaf and yard waste and may also compost seaweed.

Mixed Solid Waste - shall mean heterogeneous and commingled solid waste, which may include readily biodegradable organic wastes, as well as other organic wastes that are not readily biodegradable and may also contain inorganic, non-compostable wastes.

Mixed Solid Waste Composting Facility - shall mean a solid waste management facility that is designed and operated to produce compost from the compostable portion of a mixed solid waste input stream.

Putrescible Waste - shall mean solid waste including, but not limited to, fish waste and other food wastes which contains organic matter capable of being decomposed by microorganisms and that has a tendency to form foul-smelling by-products, during decomposition, and may provide food for vectors or birds.

Putrescible Waste Composting Facility - shall mean a facility that is required to be registered with the Department that is designed and operated to receive, and compost putrescible waste with or without other waste.

Yard Waste - shall mean leaves, grass clippings, weeds, herbaceous garden waste, shrub and tree prunings, and brush.

## **Fertilizer**

### **CHAPTER 2-7 Commercial Fertilizer**

#### **Regulation**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE2/2-7/INDEX.HTM>

#### **Pertinent Definition**

*Commercial fertilizer* means any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrient(s) which is used for its plant nutrient content and which is designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth, except unmanipulated animal and vegetable manures, marl, lime, limestone, wood ashes and gypsum, and other products exempted by regulation of the director.

<b>Registration Requirement Per Product</b>	Submitted annually
<b>Registration Fee Per Product</b>	Paid annually
<b>Labeling Requirements</b>	Yes
<b>Inspection Fee</b>	Paid annually
<b>Tonnage Reports</b>	Submitted annually
<b>Inspection Responsibility</b>	Department of Environmental Management Division of Agriculture
<b>Contact Person</b>	<a href="#">Peter Susi</a> , (401) 222-2781 x 4517
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/index.htm">http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/index.htm</a>