



The Black Stuff

THE BLACK STUFF

Natural organic humate soil conditioner · Mined on the Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland

QUICK REFERENCE — HOW TO USE

The Black Stuff is a soil conditioner, not a fertiliser. It holds water and holds your fertiliser in the root zone so both go further. It is not consumed by the plant — in trials it was still working five years after application.

HOW MUCH TO APPLY

Where	Rate	How to place it
Horticulture — fruit, nuts, vines	3 – 5 m ³ per hectare	Evenly over the root zone, then incorporate or cover. Or trench at the edge of the root zone, apply and cover.
Broadacre and general cropping	3 – 5 m ³ /ha (start at 3)	Evenly over the root zone, then incorporate or cover.
Turf and pasture	3 – 5 m ³ per hectare	Work into the soil at renovation or before sowing.
Garden beds	0.3 litres per m ²	Between rows or around the root zone; work in and cover.
Pots	0.5 – 1 litre per pot	Around the edge of the pot, worked in — not against the stem.
Seedling mix	15% by volume	Blended with composted material and sand.

THE FOUR STEPS

1

SPREAD

Break up clumps first. Side-throw or auger spreaders work best. Never on the plants.

2

COVER

Cover with mulch or soil straight away, or incorporate it.

3

WATER IN

Water in well to rehydrate and activate it in the soil.

4

RECORD

Note batch number, rate, area and date. Leave an untreated strip to compare.

SAFETY

- Dry product makes a fine dust. Wear a P2 face mask, sealed goggles and gloves, with long sleeves.
- Work upwind of the spreader; spread in low wind, early morning is best.
- The product is acidic (pH about 4.5). Wash hands and face afterwards; flush eyes with clean water.
- Follow the safety directions on the pack.

STORAGE

- Keep it covered until you use it — tarped, shedded, or bag spouts closed.
- It handles heat, cold and being soaked, and stays active. There is no shelf-life problem.
- Dry product spreads easier but is dusty. Damp product is cleaner but clumps.
- If it has dried out it will shed water at first — rehydrate with repeated light waterings, not one heavy one.

THE THINGS THAT GO WRONG

If this happens	What to do
Too much dust when spreading	Spread in low wind or early morning, lightly moisten the load, keep the cab closed, full PPE.
Clumps bridging in the bag spout or hopper	Break up clumps before loading and agitate the hopper. Clumping is not a quality fault.
Water beads up and runs off the product	It has dried out. Rehydrate with repeated light waterings until it takes up moisture.
Product blown or washed off the area	It was left uncovered. Always cover after spreading, and reapply over what was lost.
Colour or texture differs from last load	Normal. It is a natural product with no additives, so batches vary. Recalibrate the spreader.
No visible response in the first few weeks	Expected. It works on the soil, not the leaf. Judge it over seasons against your untreated strip.

DO NOT: apply directly onto plants · leave it uncovered · leave it un-watered · cut water or fertiliser in one step — reduce gradually and watch the crop