

# Compost vs Manure



## Compost

For improving Health and Organic Matter content of the soil

Pro	Con
High organic material content will increase the organic matter percentage of the soil.	When incorporated into warm, moist soil the microbes will decompose the material to the extent their diversity and population allows. Organic material doesn't automatically equal organic matter.
Will inoculate the rootzone with a large and diverse amount of beneficial microorganisms.	This is largely dependent upon the raw materials (green waste vs. manure) and management during the composting process. There can be less species in the end product than at the start depending upon many contributing factors.
Builds up soil health because it is a natural material.	If the material was mismanaged during the composting process, it can actually hinder soil biological activity and contain toxic compounds that are adverse to plant growth and seed germination.

## Cow Manure

For improving Health and Organic Matter content of the soil

Pro	Con
High organic material content will increase the organic matter percentage of the soil.	Soil incorporation is critical to ensure proper digestion can occur. Like compost, this can be limited to the extent of species diversity and population in the soil. Assuming you have adequate biological activity in your soil can be costly. Organic material doesn't automatically equal organic matter..
Will inoculate the rootzone with a large and diverse amount of beneficial microorganisms.	There is microbiology in this material, but the species diversity will be affected by the animal's ration and digestion efficiency. For example, dairy cattle are fed to produce milk, while beef cattle are fed to maximize meat production and this changes the manure composition.
Builds up soil health because it is natural and that is a better option.	Improving soil structure is dependent upon microbial diversity and activity plus a proper calcium:magnesium ratio based on the soil texture. These must each be present for the system to work effectively.

**Contact Marc to schedule your free consultation.**

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