

## Appendix 1

# How and When to Apply Bulky Soil Improvers

Although adding bulky waste to the soil is a good thing, it is important not to 'overdose' it with nutrient rich manures and composts. This can be a wasteful use of resources, encouraging excessive growth that is more vulnerable to pest and disease attack.

Organic farmers follow strict rules on how and when to apply manure. For instance, a winter application onto the fields will provide too many nutrients, such as nitrates and phosphates, which can leach out of the soil in heavy rains and cause run-off which will pollute water bodies.

We have adapted these rules for farmers in the chart below, to give the organic gardener an understanding of best practice of how much, and when, to apply the following:

Soil Improver	When to Apply	How much per year (approx.)
<b>Compost – garden, homemade</b>	Spring, summer or early autumn	1 x wheelbarrow load per 5 sq. metres
<b>Compost – from local authority, using domestic green waste such as clippings and lawn mowings</b>	Apply at any time	1 x wheelbarrow load per 3 sq. metres
<b>Worm Compost</b>	Apply in spring, summer or early autumn	1 x wheelbarrow load per 10 sq. metres
<b>Leafmould</b>	Apply at any time	In a layer 2-3cm deep
<b>Manure – straw based animal manures (except poultry)</b>	Apply when well-rotted, in spring, summer or early autumn	1 x wheelbarrow load per 10 sq. metres
<b>Manure – poultry bedding material</b>	Apply when well-rotted, in spring, summer or early autumn	1 x wheelbarrow load per 20 sq. metres