

Definition of Top dressing

Top dressing involves the direct application of a layer of **compost and/or other organic matter to grass**. The thickness of this layer varies according to need but generally, we recommend a thickness of around 1/8 of an inch or 4 millimeters.

Top dressing using compost

Top dressing using compost offers several advantages which are found in other fertilizing and grass maintenance methods.



Fertilization

With respect to **fertilization**, the application of only one layer of compost fulfills between 50 and 100 percent of the annual fertilizing needs of your lawn. **Compost** is the only slow releasing soil amendment containing all of the necessary nutrients to maintain balanced levels of:

- **Macro-elements** : nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium
- **Micro-elements** : iron, sulphur, manganese
- **Oligo-elements** : copper, boron

Soil structure

Soil structure is extremely important and is directly related to the **soil-air-water-grass relationship**. A well structured soil will better retain water and **fertilizing elements**.

Compost improves soil structure as the intake of compost will allow the soil to be more porous while furthering the transfer of gases and the development of new roots.

Microbial activity

The **application of compost** stimulates microbial activity in the soil. Microbial activity is particularly important for the **health of the grass**.



Excessive use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizer may weaken the microbial activity, in addition to acidifying the soil.

Thatch decomposition

The micro-organisms present in **compost** will transform the thatch into an **organic matter** absorbed by the lawn.

Neutral pH

The **organic matter** contained in compost (around 60%), acts as a reserve, holding micronutrients until needed and allowing a more balanced pH level.

Conclusion

In summary, the **characteristics of top dressing** make it the first step to a professional, complete, and ecological maintenance program. **Top dressing** corrects several problems at their source and allows for healthy soil and grass.

Top dresser

The **Top Dresser** is a multi-purpose motorized applicator intended mostly for green space maintenance personnel.

This **top dresser** was designed and developed in 1995 to respond to the needs of new technologies and best practices in the **horticultural services industry**.

Design

At the design level, the **top dresser** is based on mechanical systems drawn from much larger **top dressers** that are used on surfaces such as sports fields and golf courses.



Operation



At the bottom of the hopper, a conveyor transports the product to an agitator which breaks up the product as required.

The product is then sent to an adjustable feeding trap and falls onto the rotary disk that evenly spreads the product onto the ground.

It is the combination of these systems which allows for the spreading of both wet and dry products.

It is important to note that the moisture level of products must not exceed 65 %.

Use

The **top dresser** has been designed to carry out customized **top dressing applications** such as the restoration of existing turf or dressing newly seeded areas.

All functions such as propulsion, clutch, and calibration of the adjustable feeding trap are within easy reach for the operator.

Please note that the application width is not adjustable and is determined by the type of product being used:

- **With organic matter, compost, and customized mixes: from 3 to 9 feet (1 to 3 metres);**
- **For granular products such as natural fertilizers and lime: from 3 to 12 feet (1 to 4 metres);**
- **For sand and salt: from 3 to 6 feet (1 to 2 metres).**



With a stable wheelbase and rear wheel, the **top dresser** is easy to control; easily making 90° and 180° turns around obstacles while trimming along sidewalks and flower beds.

With a 34 inch width (86 centimeters), the **top dresser** is suited for both residential and commercial use.

Reliable, economical, and easy to maintain, the **top dresser** is considered **the best top dresser** for residential and commercial use available on the market.

Its versatility and ease of use make it a highly valued piece of equipment for the **lawn care professional**

Rental

The Top dresser is available for rent at the main office.

Day rental	\$90.00
½ Day	\$65.00