

Turf Grass TRENDS



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New uses for compost are being found

by Christopher Sann

Uses for the composted final products of the microscopic break down of animal manures, agricultural plant residues, and other organic wastes are as many and as varied as astute minds have been able to devise in the several thousands of years that man has been stockpiling these materials. To the long list that includes soil amendments, growing mediums, plant protection materials and insect and disease protection, please add another: bioremediation.

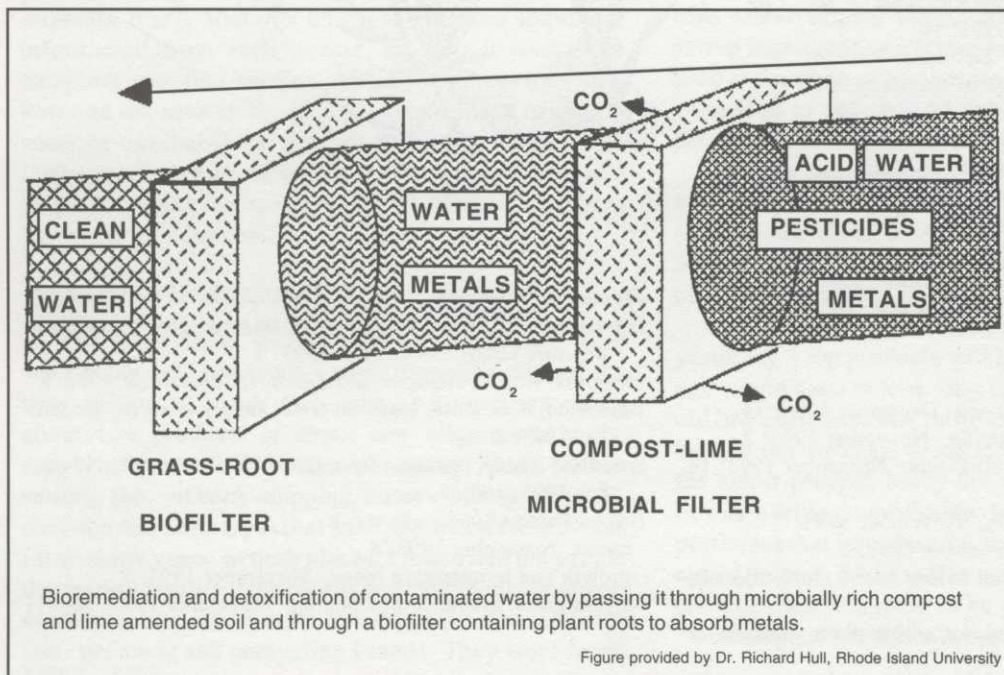
The use of compost materials in bioremediation involves the detoxification of contaminated soils or waters using the structural as well as the biologically active portions of compost to eliminate carbon based petroleum, pesticide, or mine wastes from the environment.

Old coal mine waste waters are cleaned with the help of compost

Hundreds perhaps thousands of old coal mines dot the Appalachian mountain regions of the East, spewing thousands of gallons of contaminated acid waste waters into the local streams and rivers that feed the Chesapeake Bay. Biologically active composts are layered with limestone to form the bed of remediation marshes to detoxify the mine runoff and leachings from these abandoned mines.

The limestone layer neutralizes the acid of the wastes while the microbes in the compost detoxify the carbon based toxins within the waste stream. Once this has been

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