

WM EarthCare™ Compost Improves Yields and Provides Consistency in Farming

Using compost provides for larger and more consistent crop yields allowing farmers to maximize their acreage and better predict yearly production rates.

Background

About 10 years ago, the McManis Family Vineyards decided to focus on sustainability and turned to WM EarthCare compost for help. The Ripon, California-based vineyard and winemaking company knew it had to keep the soil in its 3,600 acres of vineyards healthy but also maximize the crop yield and quality on a consistent yearly basis.

After researching several different composts, Dirk Heuvel, the company's vice president for vineyard operations, choose WM EarthCare compost because of its density, nutrient analysis, price point, OMRI certification and creation from food scraps, food-soiled paper and landscape trimmings.

Since the vineyard applies compost at a variable rate, it's critically important that the product has the same density year after year. Consistent density allows the vineyard to properly distribute the compost to prevent waste and allow all the fields to flourish equally. Making sure you can use the compost efficiently is important for large scale farming when you use between 500 to 1,000 tons of compost each year.

As a bonus, the McManis Family Vineyards is thrilled that WM EarthCare compost is made from food scraps, food-soiled paper and landscape trimmings, materials that in the past were disposed of in a landfill.

"Knowing that we are using a product that was (made from materials) destined for a landfill is huge," Heuvel said. "We're keeping materials out of the landfill and reapplying them to our soil. It's sustainable. It's kind of this circle of life."

WM EarthCare compost allows grapes grown by McManis Family Vineyards to earn certification from the [Lodi Rules](#) sustainable certification program, key selling point for the company's 350,000 cases of wine produced yearly.

In their own words



"We like how fine of a material it is, it doesn't have a lot of coarse organic matter which you really don't want. You want kind of that finer material, that material that breaks down sooner and gets into the soil faster."

"The biggest difference we saw when we started using WM EarthCare compost and farming sustainably was the consistency in the vineyards from year to year, consistency in the growth and the quality of our fruit."

- Dirk Heuvel, Vice President of Vineyard Operations, McManis Family Vineyards

McMANIS
FAMILY VINEYARDS

www.mcmanisfamilyvineyards.com



Customer: McManis Family Vineyards

Solution: WM EarthCare™ Compost



Why WM EarthCare™ Compost?

Compost is a natural fertilizer that retains water and essentially takes carbon dioxide from the environment, sending it into the ground and turning harmful greenhouse gases into a beneficial vitamin for crops.

Dirk chose WM EarthCare compost because of its predictable quality, favorable price point and OMRI certification. The compost helps Dirk better manage more than 3,600 acres of vineyards and allows McManis Family Vineyards to produce 350,000 cases of quality wine all stamped with the Lodi Rules sustainable farming certificate.



Certifications

OMRI Certified (Organic Materials Review Institute)

CDFA Organic Input Material (California Department of Food and Agriculture)

U.S. Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance



How to Order WM EarthCare Compost

Contact a WM EarthCare specialist below to begin a consultation. We'll make sure you receive the exact amount of compost you need and can offer suggestions for other materials such as mulch, soil blends and hardscape.

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