



Product Name: Potting Mixes, Composts, Mulch, Organic Garden Materials

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Potting Mixes, Composts, Mulch, Organic Materials

Section 1 - Identification of Chemical Product and Company

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Product Name: **Potting Mixes, Composts, Mulch, Organic Garden Materials**

Product Use: Organic Gardening products

Creation Date: November, 2014

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Section 2 - Hazards Identification

Statement of Hazardous Nature: The dust and mists (bio-aerosols) from this product are hazardous according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

Not a Dangerous Good according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code.

Risk Phrases: R36/37 - Irritating to eyes and respiratory system

Safety Phrases: S22/25/38 - Do not breathe dust; avoid contact with eyes; if insufficient ventilation, wear respiratory equipment

SUSDP Classification: None allocated.

ADG Classification: None allocated. Not a Dangerous Good.

UN Number: None allocated.

Mulch Colourant: Based on available information from the criteria of Safe Work Australia, this material is not classified as hazardous.

Emergency Overview

Physical Description and Colour: Brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances.

Odour: Non-specific "earthy" odour.

Major Health Hazards: No significant risk factors have been found for this product.

Potential Health Effects

Inhalation

Short Term Exposure: Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists (bio-aerosols) may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat & lungs and may aggravate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

Long Term Exposure: Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation; inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illnesses ranging from hay fever to asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses.

Skin Contact

Short Term Exposure: Skin contact with these products and the dusts and/or liquid mists (bio-aerosols) may result in skin irritation.

Long Term exposure: May lead to skin sensitisation; dermatitis or skin infection in some sensitive individuals.

Eye Contact

Short Term Exposure: The dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering or eye infection.

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term eye exposure.

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Ingestion

Short Term Exposure: Unlikely under normal conditions however swallowing compost and potting mixes may cause abdominal discomfort and increase the risk of gastro intestinal infections

Long Term Exposure: No data for health effects associated with long term ingestion.

Carcinogen Status

NOHSC: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NOHSC.

NTP: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NTP.

IARC: No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by IARC.

Section 3 - Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredients	CAS No	Conc %	TWA (mg/m³)	STEL (mg/m³)
Organic & mineral components	N/A	100%	not set	not set

Composts; potting mixes and other organic gardening materials are made by blending naturally occurring materials including: plant mulch; topsoil; sand; wood dust; manure and mushroom compost. The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms including bacteria; fungi and protozoa.

Exposure limits have not been established by ASCC for any of the significant ingredients in this product. There is a blanket limit of 10mg/m³ for dusts or mists when limits have not otherwise been established. The nature of this product makes it unlikely that this level will be approached in normal use. The TWA exposure value is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8 hour working day for a 5 day working week. The STEL (Short Term Exposure Limit) is an exposure value that should not be exceeded for more than 15 minutes and should not be repeated for more than 4 times per day.

Mulch Colourant: Ingredients determined to be 100% non-hazardous.

Section 4 - First Aid Measures

General Information: You should call The Poisons Information Centre if you feel that you may have been poisoned or irritated by this product. *The number is 13 11 26 from anywhere in Australia* (for New Zealand call 0800 764 766) and is available at all times. Have this MSDS with you when you call.

Inhalation: Move to a well ventilated area with fresh air, first aid is not generally required. However if in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

Skin Contact: Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water. If irritation does occur, obtain medical advice.

Eye Contact: Quickly and gently blot or brush product away. Flush the contaminated eye(s) with gentle flowing luke warm water while holding the eyelid(s) open until the product is removed or until irritation has ceased. Obtain medical advice if irritation becomes painful or lasts more than a few minutes.

Ingestion: Give water to drink. Seek medical attention if any abdominal symptoms.

Advice to Doctor: Treat symptomatically.

Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

Fire and Explosion Hazards: There is no risk of an explosion from this product under normal circumstances if it is involved in a fire. Only small quantities of decomposition products are expected from this product at temperatures normally achieved in a fire. This will only occur after heating to dryness.

Extinguishing Media: Not Combustible. Use extinguishing media suited to burning materials.

Fire Fighting: If a significant quantity of this product is involved in a fire, call the fire brigade.

Flash point: Does not burn.

Upper Flammability Limit: Does not burn.

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Lower Flammability Limit: Does not burn.

Auto-ignition Temperature: Not applicable - does not burn.

Flammability Class: Does not burn.

Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

Accidental release: Minor spills do not normally need any special clean-up measures. In the event of a major spill, prevent spillage from entering drains or water courses. As a minimum, wear overalls, goggles and gloves. Suitable materials for protective clothing include cotton, rubber, PVC. Eye/face protective equipment should comprise as a minimum, protective glasses and, preferably goggles. If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in clean-up area, we recommend that you use a suitable Dust Mask. Use a P1 mask, designed for use against mechanically generated particles e.g. silica & asbestos. Stop leak if safe to do so, and contain spill. Sweep up and shovel or collect recoverable product into labelled containers for recycling or salvage, and dispose of promptly. Consider vacuuming if appropriate. Recycle containers wherever possible after careful cleaning. After spills, wash are preventing runoff from entering drains. If a significant quantity of material enters drains, advise emergency services. This material may be suitable for approved landfill. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal. Thoroughly launder protective clothing before storage or re-use. When sending contaminated clothing to a laundry, advise laundry of nature of contamination.

Section 7 - Handling and Storage

Handling: Keep exposure to this product to a minimum, and minimise the quantities kept in work areas. Check Section 8 of this MSDS for details of personal protective measures, and make sure that those measures are followed. In order to minimise risks to persons using the product in the workplace, please follow procedures in **Storage**. Also, avoid contact or contamination of product with incompatible materials listed in Section 10.

Storage: Make sure that the product does not come into contact with substances as stated in Section 10 - Incompatibilities. Check packaging - there may be further storage instructions on the label.

Section 8 - Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

The following Australian Standards will provide general advice regarding safety clothing and equipment. Respiratory equipment: **AS/NZS 1715**; Protective Gloves: **AS 2161**; Industrial Clothing: **AS2919**; Industrial Eye Protection: **AS1336** and **AS/NZS 1337**; Occupational Protective Footwear: **AS/NZS2210**.

SWA Exposure Limits

TWA (mg/m³)

STEL (mg/m³)

Exposure limits have not been established by SWA for this product. No special equipment is usually needed when occasionally handling small quantities. The following instructions are for bulk handling or where regular exposure in an occupational setting occurs without proper containment systems.

Ventilation: No special ventilation requirements are normally necessary for this product. However make sure that the work environment remains clean and that dusts are minimised.

Eye Protection: Eye protection is not normally necessary when this product is being used. However, if in doubt, wear suitable protective glasses or goggles.

Skin Protection: The information at hand indicates that this product is not harmful and that normally no special skin protection is necessary. However, we suggest that you routinely avoid contact with all chemical products and that you wear suitable gloves (preferably elbow-length) when skin contact is likely.

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Protective Material Types: We suggest that protective clothing be made from the following materials: cotton, rubber, PVC.

Respirator: If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in the area where this product is being used, we recommend that you use a suitable Dust Mask.

Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties:

Physical Description & colour:	Brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances.
Odour:	Non-specific "earthy" odour.
Boiling Point:	Not applicable.
Freezing/Melting Point:	Decomposes before melting.
Volatiles:	No data.
Vapour Pressure:	No data.
Vapour Density:	No data.
Specific Gravity:	No data.
Water Solubility:	Largely insoluble.
pH:	Variable in a range 4.5-8.5

Mulch Colourants

Solubility	Mixes with water
Specific Gravity (20 °C):	Not Available
Relative Vapour Density (air=1):	>1
Vapour Pressure (20 °C):	Not Available
Flash Point (°C):	Not Applicable
Flammability Limits (%):	Not Applicable
Autoignition Temperature (°C):	Not Available
Melting Point/Range (°C):	Approx. 0
Boiling Point/Range (°C):	Approx. 100
pH:	Not Available
Viscosity:	Not Available
Total VOC (g/Litre):	Not Available

Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

Reactivity: This product is unlikely to react or decompose under normal storage conditions.

Conditions to Avoid: Store in a dry, cool, well-ventilated area.

Incompatibilities: No particular Incompatibilities.

Fire Decomposition: Only small quantities of decomposition products are expected from this product at temperatures normally achieved in a fire.

Polymerisation: This product does not undergo polymerisation.

Section 11 - Toxicological Information

Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bio-aerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illnesses ranging from hay fever and asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, and the immune compromised are at particular risk from these illnesses. All people working with these and other landscaping and horticultural products should ensure that they are adequately protected from tetanus.

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Section 12 - Ecological Information

No Ecological Toxic Effects recorded for this product.

Effects on Aquatic Organisms: No data.

Effects on Other Animals: No data available but unlikely to be toxic to animals.

Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

This material is suitable for approved landfill. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal. Recycle plastic bags or containers.

Section 14 - Transport Information

ADG Code: This product is not classified as a Dangerous Good. No special transport conditions are necessary unless required by other regulations.

Section 15 - Regulatory Information

Bio-aerosols listed as hazardous by Worksafe Australia

Section 16 - Other Information

This MSDS contains only safety-related information. For other data see product literature.

Acronyms

ADG Code:	Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail
AICS:	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances
CAS number:	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number
Hazchem Number:	Emergency action code of numbers and letters that provide information to emergency services especially firefighters
IARC:	International Agency for Research on Cancer
NOHSC:	National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
NOS:	Not otherwise specified
NTP:	National Toxicology Program (USA)
R-Phrase:	Risk Phrase
SUSDP:	Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs & Poisons
UN Number:	United Nations Number

THIS MSDS SUMMARISES OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD INFORMATION OF THE PRODUCT AND HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE AND USE THE PRODUCT IN THE WORKPLACE. EACH USER MUST REVIEW THIS MSDS IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE PRODUCT WILL BE HANDLED AND USED IN THE WORKPLACE. IF CLARIFICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT AN APPROPRIATE RISK ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE, THE USER SHOULD CONTACT THIS COMPANY SO WE CAN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OUR SUPPLIERS.

Please read all labels carefully before using product.

This MSDS is prepared in accord with the NOHSC document "National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets" 2nd Edition [NOHSC:2011(2003)]

Prepared by: Ki-Carma Pty Ltd, November 2014

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