

## Material Safety Data Sheet

### Composts, potting mixes, mulches & other organic gardening materials

**The dust and mists (bioaerosols) from this product are hazardous according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is issued by Van Schaik's Bio Gro in accordance with Worksafe Australia guidelines. As such, the information contained herein must not be altered, deleted or added to. Van Schaik's Bio Gro will issue a new MSDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Worksafe Australia guidelines/regulations. Van Schaik's Bio Gro will not accept any responsibility for any changes made to its MSDS in content by any other person or organisation.

## Identification

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Product Name:            | - Compost<br>- Potting Mix<br>- Mulch<br>- Other organic gardening materials |
| UN Number:               | none allocated   |
| Dangerous Goods Class:   | none allocated   |
| Subsidiary Risk:         | none allocated   |
| Hazchem Code:            | none allocated   |
| Poisons Schedule Number: | none allocated   |
| Use:                     | Used for landscaping and general horticultural purposes.                     |

### **Physical Description/Properties:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Appearance:                | brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances |
| Odour:                     | non-specific "earthy" odour                                      |
| Boiling Point:             | not applicable   |
| Melting Point:             | not applicable   |
| Vapour Pressure:           | not applicable   |
| Flashpoint:                | not applicable   |
| Specific gravity (water=1) | varies according to composition and moisture content             |
| Molecular weight:          | not applicable   |
| Solubility in water:       | not applicable   |
| pH:                        | 4.8 to 7.5   |

**Ingredients:**

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

## Health Hazard Information

**Acute health effects:**

**Swallowed:**

Unlikely under normal conditions. Swallowing compost and potting mixes may cause abdominal discomfort and increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections.

**Eye:**

The dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering or eye infection.

**Skin:**

Skin contact with these products and their dusts and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may result in skin irritation and in some people may lead to sensitisation, dermatitis or skin infection.

**Inhaled:**

Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and aggravate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

**Chronic health effects:**

Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illness ranging from hayfever and asthma to pneumonia (eg Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illness. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases and the immunocompromised 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.

**First Aid:**

**Swallowed:**

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

**Eyes:**

Flush eyes thoroughly for ten minutes with plenty of water. If irritation persists seek medical attention.

**Skin:**

Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water.

**Inhaled:**

Remove to fresh air.

**Advice to Doctor:**

Treat symptomatically.

## Precautions for use

### Exposure Standards

**Worksafe Australia Exposure Standard:**

There is no specific standard for composts and potting mixes.

**Van Schaik Bio Gro Pty Ltd recommendation:**

Keep exposure to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products as low as practicable.

**Engineering controls:**

All work with these products should be carried out in such a way as to avoid skin contact and minimise exposure to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols).

**Respiratory protection:**

Avoid breathing dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). Wear an approved respirator suitable for respirable particulates and conforming with AS/NZS 1715 and 1716 when exposed to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). These standards should be followed in the selection, fit-testing, use, storage and maintenance of the respirators.

**Skin Protection:**

Wear standard duty gloves (AS 2161), loose comfortable clothing and boots. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers are recommended if skin irritation occurs. Wash skin with mild soap and water immediately after working with these materials. Launder work clothes regularly.

**Eye Protection:**

Non-fogging dust resistant goggles or safety glasses (AS/NZS 1336) should be worn if there is a risk of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) getting into the eyes.

**Flammability:**

Not flammable.

## Safe Handling Information

**Storage and transport:**

No special transport requirements are necessary. Store composts, potting mixes and other organic materials in a cool dry area.

**Spills and disposal:**

Waste material can be disposed of as trade waste in accordance with local authority guidelines.

**Fire/explosion hazard:**

Not applicable.

**Smoking:**

Van Schaik's Bio Gro Pty Ltd recommends that all work areas should be non-smoking areas.

## Labelling Requirements

### HAZARDOUS

### COMPOSTS, POTTING MIXES AND OTHER ORGANIC GARDENING MATERIALS

This product is made from organic materials including composted pinebark, and contains living microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa. May also contain mineral and fertiliser additives.

**RISK:**

Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs resulting in illness ranging from hayfever or asthma, to pneumonia (eg Legionnaire's disease) or pneumonia-like illness. Direct contact with this material or its dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may cause skin irritation (dermatitis), and skin or eye infection or irritation. People particularly at risk are those suffering from asthma or allergies, and those whose immune defence systems are compromised.

**SAFETY:**

Avoid contact with eyes or skin.

Avoid breathing dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols).

Wear suitable protective clothing and standard duty gloves (AS 2161).

If exposed to dust and/or liquid mists, also wear dust resistant eye protection (AS/NZS 1338) and particulate respirator (AS/NZS 1715 and 1716).

Wash thoroughly immediately after handling.

**ABN**

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Wash work clothes regularly.  
Clean up by wet sweeping or vacuuming.  
Store this product in a cool location.

**FIRST AID:**

Irrigate eyes with plenty of water for 10 minutes.  
Wash skin with soap and water.  
Seek medical attention for any persistent skin, eye or respiratory symptoms.

**DISPOSAL:**

Follow above safety precautions and collect in containers for disposal as trade waste in accordance with local authority guidelines.

**MANUFACTURER:**

Van Schaik's Bio Gro Pty Ltd.

## Contact Point

Further information may be obtained by contacting Van Schaik's Bio Gro by:

**Postal Address**

PO Box 8061  
Mount Gambier East SA 5291

**Phone** (08) 8724 5555 **Facsimile:** (08) 8724 5532

**Emergency Telephone:**

Poisons Information Centre: 13 1126

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**Issue Date**

4/08/2015

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