

YARD WASTE COMPOST ADVISORY

Update 4/27/2023

Starting in October 2020, Solid Waste Compost testing indicated the presence of three herbicides in the City of Rapid City's Solid Waste Division 3/8" and 3/4" yard waste compost. The three herbicides detected are: Clopyralid, MCP, and Quinclorac. At least one of these herbicides, Clopyralid (pronounced clo-PEER-a-lid), is a *persistent herbicide*.

In April 2023, Rapid City Landfill sample testing found all of these herbicides are still present with in our feed stocks at high rates. Solid Waste has been working very closely with the US Composting Council and it has been determined that this is a nationwide issue. The Rapid City Landfill is currently gathering a third set of samples and will be using three different labs for a results comparison.

As stated in the previous October 2021 update, the term *persistent herbicide* means that the herbicide does not break down into inert substances quickly. Some persistent herbicides have the potential to be detected in soil or compost for anywhere from several months to several years.

The Solid Waste Division does not use herbicides at any point in the composting process. The herbicides detected most likely arrived at the Solid Waste Facility in the feed stock for our yard waste compost. Yard waste compost feed stock consists of yard waste (leaves, branches, grass, etc.) and other organic material brought to the Solid Waste Facility for processing. The Solid Waste Division is currently conducting another round of extensive testing of all of our compost products *and* our feed stocks, which will be sent to a variety of different facilities as well as the US Composting Council for review and documentation.

At this time, the Solid Waste Division is still advising that customers do not use these compost products in areas where broad leaf plants will be grown. This includes most common garden plants, ornamental plants and flowers.

The Solid Waste Division understands these compost products are very popular and a very important part of our overall waste management strategy. We want to reassure you we are making every effort possible, along with the US Composting Council, to identify where these herbicides are coming from and working to eliminate them from our compost to the greatest extent possible. We are also asking for your help in eliminating this problem. If you have knowledge that any of these herbicides have been applied to any waste brought to the Solid Waste Facility, please let us know so that we may take the necessary steps to keep that waste out of our composting process. For compost users interested in doing at home Bioassays please visit www.rapidcityrecycles.org and view our Compost page for details.