**Fort Wayne City Utilities**

CITY UTILITIES
WATER THAT WORKS

**Biosolids Handling Facility**

**Information & Product Sales**
260-427-5535

**Business Hours**

**April 1 to November 30**

Monday thru Saturday

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday

12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Product loading time ends

5:30 pm daily

**December 1 to March 30**

Monday thru Friday

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Product loading time ends

1:30 pm daily

**Pricing**

**Biosolids**

**$12.20/ton+tax**

Free to residents that load themselves.

**Contact:**

**Travis Medina**
6202 Lake Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

# Biosolids Products: Information

Call 260-427-5535 Fort Wayne Biosolids Handling Facility for Biosolids Product sales and information on the innovative recycling program of Fort Wayne City Utilities and the Water Pollution Control Plant.

## Benefits of Biosolids

Biosolids provide soils with the nutrients that tend to be deficient in Midwest soils. Biosolids products are used in landscaping and gardening in the following ways:

**As a soil amendment**: Biosolids products that are available for public use improve the physical characteristics of the soil. Compact and clay-like soils are made lighter and more porous; sandy soils benefit from improved water retention.

**As a mulch**: The addition of biosolids and municipal yard waste blended as a mulch reduces watering requirements and adds beauty to the landscape.

**As a potting medium**: When mixed with potting soil, biosolids products provide an ideal medium for potted plants and greenhouse containers. Biosolids blends make an excellent substitute for manure composts, peat moss and other components of typical soil mixes.

## How It Works

Biosolids distributed for use in landscaping and gardening must meet the US EPA "Exceptional Quality" requirements. Treatment processes such as composting, heat treatment or thermophilic digestion help to satisfy this federal standard. Every day, over 27 dry tons of primary and secondary waste-activated sludge from the City Utilities' Water Pollution Control Plant is stabilized by a process called anaerobic digestion. The process occurs in large tanks or digesters. Liquid and solid wastewater residuals are separated to allow sludge more time to break down in the digesters. This process significantly reduces the amount of time needed for air-drying and reduces any pathogen levels in the sludge. Treated sludge is moved from the digesters at the Plant to 55 acres of drying basins at the Lake Avenue Biosolids Facility. Biosolids are air-dried for 3+ years and turned with special equipment. The biosolids are then combined with bulking agents and formed into windrows. Waste products (tree trimmings and yard waste), which would ordinarily be disposed of in landfill, are utilized as bulking agents, significantly reducing the cost of yard waste disposal for Fort Wayne residents. Final testing is done on biosolids products at this time to ensure regulatory compliance. Through this process, wastewater residuals are converted into a stable organic product that can safely be used by the public.

# Nutrient Analysis

**Element Lab**
**January 2017**
**(dry weight basis)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total Nitrogen** | **0.638%** |
| **Phosphorous** | **1.14%** |
| **Potassium** | **0.176%** |

**Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN)**
**4.35 lbs./dry ton**

**Recommended Rates**

| *Crop* | *lbs of PAN per acre* |
|---|---|
| Corn | 200 lbs |
| Soybeans | 100 lbs |
| Hay, pasture | 100 lbs |
| Cereal grain | 100 lbs |
| Set-aside, idle | 50 lbs |

**Beneficial Micronutrients**

***Pounds/Ton***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Cu** | | **0.745** |
| **Zn** | | **1.07** |
| **Mg** | **(est)** | **23.0** |
| **Mn** | **(est)** | **1.62** |
| **Ca** | **(est)** | **114** |
| **B** | **(est)** | **0.0193** |
| **S** | **(est)** | **9.28** |

# Biosolids Products: Information

**Recommended Application Rates**: The recommended amounts of Fort Wayne's biosolid products are based on Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN). The calculated PAN and recommended application rates per Indiana Administrative Code (327 IAC) are shown in the left-hand column of this user guide.

**Vegetable Gardens**: **Initial Spring Preparation**: Spread the recommended amount of biosolids product evenly over the surface and till into root zone. Smooth the surface, plant seeds or plants, then top dress with 1" of material. **During the Summer**: To increase moisture retention top dress with 1" of biosolids material. **Initial Fall Preparation**: Spread recommend amount of biosolids material evenly over the surface and leave untouched until spring. It is recommended that only one of the above mentioned applications be made during the year. *Soil should be tested and a pH of 6.5 maintained in the soil when biosolids products are applied to land used for food crops.*

**As a Mulch**: The addition of a biosolids/yard waste blend as a mulch reduces watering requirements, and adds beauty to the landscape.

**Trees and Shrubs**: To encourage deep rooting, dig 1-2" deeper than the actual rootball. Mix one (1) part biosolids product with one (1) part existing soil to fill the first 1-2", then add an additional 1-2" of soil. Place rootball in the hole, surround and cover it firmly with a mixture of one (1) part biosolids product and two (2) parts soil. After watering and settling, top dress with an additional 2" of biosolids product. In the case of heavily compacted soil, the biosolids product should be tilled in to a depth of 12" and shaped in to a mound before planting the tree or shrub.

**New Lawns**: Spread 1-2" of biosolids product over the area and lightly till into soil before seeding.

**Established Lawns**: Once every year, cut grass to medium height, spread 1/2" of biosolids product over the area, irrigate and rake lightly to incorporate. Application is best done in early spring but could also be done in July or October. Additional nitrogen applications may be desired if a deep green appearance is required all year long.

**Flowers and Berries**: Top dress with 2-3" of biosolids product in the spring or early summer.

**Potted Plants**: Top dress with 1" of biosolids product initially and/or when replanting.

**Bulbs and Tubers**: Apply a handful of biosolids product when planting each bulb or set then top dress with an additional 1-2".

The City of Fort Wayne is licensed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and meets all Federal EPA 40 CFR 503 regulations. This product can be custom designed to create a soil amendment for specific problems, including difficult or unproductive growing locations. ***Biosolids products are to be used only in accordance with the instructions on this information sheet.***