



# Compost Registration in Minnesota

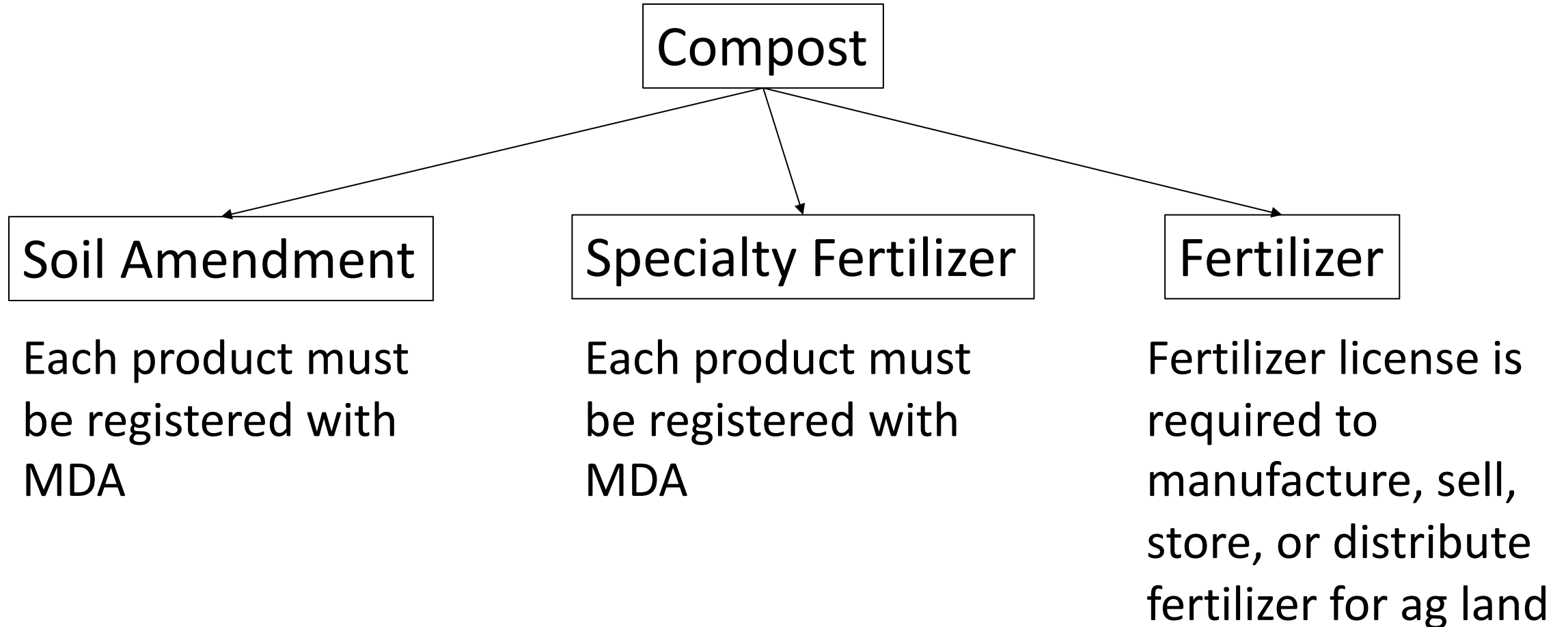
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- Compost as soil amendment or fertilizer
- Product licensing or registration
- Registration exemptions
- Label requirements
- Acceptable compost claims
- Enforcement

# Registration of Compost Required



# Soil amendment vs. fertilizer

## **Soil amendment**

Contains an amending ingredient

Has purpose statement based on effects of amending ingredient(s)

Low to no nutrients guaranteed

Primary purpose of the product is based on the the amending ingredient(s)

Not subject to fall fertilizer law

## **Fertilizer and specialty fertilizer**

Contains one or more nutrients

Has purpose statement based on effects of nutrient(s)

Default if nutrients are guaranteed

Primary purpose of the product is based on the nutrient(s)

Subject to fall fertilizer law

# Exemptions from licensing/registration requirement

## Exemptions:

- Giving away compost (except those containing manure and biosolids)
- Recycled feedstocks (i.e. yard trimmings, food waste, municipal solid waste- does not apply to compost containing manure or biosolids)



# Product license/registration summary

	<b>License required</b>	<b>Product registration required</b>	<b>Fee (annually)</b>	<b>Tonnage fee</b>
Fertilizer	Yes	No	\$100	\$1.11 per ton
Specialty fertilizer	No	Yes	\$100	\$1.11 per ton
Soil amendment	No	Yes	\$200	\$1.11 per ton

# Label Requirements

- Brand name
- Guaranteed analysis
- Name and address of guarantor
- Net weight
- Label must be affixed to the container (e.g. bag) or as an invoice or delivery ticket (bulk)

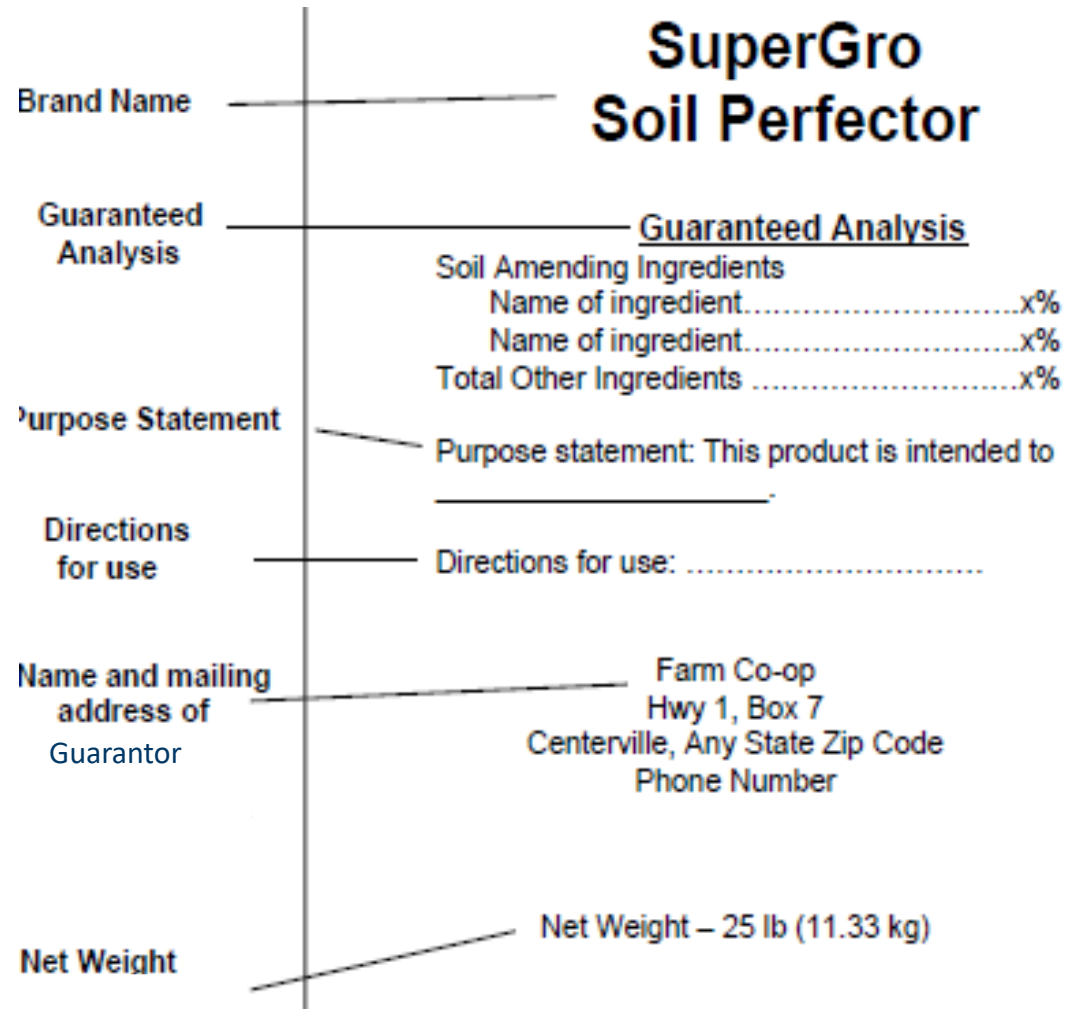
In addition, for specialty fertilizers:

- Directions for use
- Derivatives statement

In addition, for soil amendments:

- Directions for use
- Purpose

# Label requirements



- MDA reviews labels for claims of usefulness or benefit
- MDA can require a company to submit data to substantiate claims of benefit

# Acceptable compost claims

Improves soil structure and porosity, creating a better plant root environment

Increases moisture infiltration and permeability and reduced bulk density of heavy soils, improving moisture infiltration rates and reducing erosion and runoff

Improves the moisture holding capacity of light soils, reducing water loss and nutrient leaching and improving moisture retention

Improves cation exchange capacity of soils



# Acceptable compost claims, cont'd



Supplies organic matter

Aids the proliferation of soil microorganisms

Allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients while reducing nutrient loss by leaching

Enables soils to retain nutrients longer

Contains humus, assisting in soil aggregation and making nutrients more available for plant uptake

Buffers soil pH

# Enforcement process

Distribution centers and retailers are periodically inspected

Complaints are followed-up on

If unregistered product is found, the MDA can:

- Issue fines to the guarantor
- Issue a stop sale to the distributor or retailer



# Minn. Department of Agriculture Product Database

Search for registered products in Minnesota Department of Agriculture's online database:  
<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/lis/productsdefault.jsp>



## Registered Product Search

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**Company Name:**

(Optional)

**Product Search Instructions**



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Questions?

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