Compost in vineyards

What did we learn from the four projects we discussed?

Good water infiltration and drainage

Supports high yield

Stores water

High crop quality

Supplies nutrients to the plant

Soil health

The continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans (NRCS)-

Holds diverse soil organisms

Retains and recycles nutrients

Stores carbon

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions Has high microbial activity

Supports high yield

High crop quality

Supplies nutrients to the plant

Retains and recycles nutrients

Lake county

- Increase in yield at higher rates
- Increased pruning weight at higher rates
- No effect on juice quality

Paso Robles

- No effect on yield
- No effect on grape quality

Holds diverse soil organisms

Has high microbial activity

Paso Robles

No effect on mineralizable C

Lake county

- Increased petiole N (at higher rates) and increased petiole P at higher rates (10-15ton/acre depending on year)
- Olsen P increased at higher rates
- Soil Ca, K, Mg greater at greater compost application rates

Stores water

Good water infiltration and drainage

Paso Robles

 Moisture retention curves are under development Stores carbon

Paso Robles

- No effect on total C
- Active carbon (POX-C) increased to 2 feet depth with increasing application rate in year 2

Sonoma

- Compost significantly increased soil C in 0-10 cm after 2 years
- No effect of tillage

Lake county

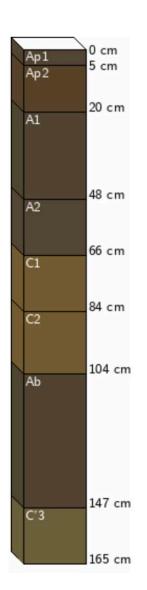
- Increased SOM with higher rates of compost application in year 1 and 2
- Increased pruning weight at higher rates

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

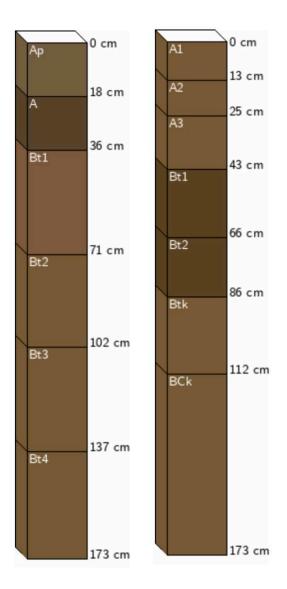
Paso Robles

 No effect on N₂O or CO₂ emissions from soil

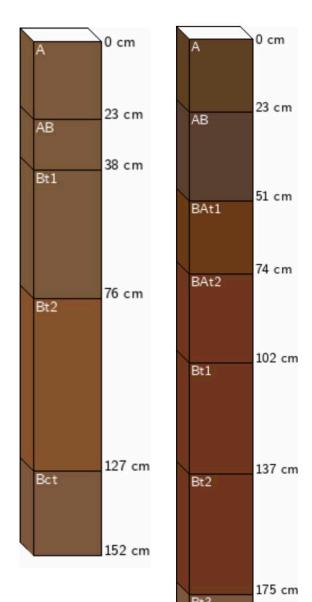
Sonoma County Yolo loam, 2% SOC



Paso Robles
San Ysidro loam/Arbuckle-San
Ysidro complex, <1% SOC



Lake county
Collayomi/Aiken, ca. 1% SOC
Degraded volcanic soils



Variations in management

Compost application rate

- Greater rate = greater effect
- High rates may only be suitable in degraded soils

Compost feedstock and quality

 Grape pomace itself showed phytotoxicity, but effect disappeared after composting

Incorporation or not?

- No effect of tillage in Sonoma trial
- C pools affected to 2 feet deep after surface application in Paso Robles trial

Broadcast vs. banding (vine row vs. tractor row)

- Sonoma, Paso Robles: C in tractor row > C in vine row
- Interaction with cove crop

Timing of application

May depend on application method and management goals







Join us for a live Q&A

November 20th, 10am

