



Preparing your Terra Char & Soil

There are a large number of possibilities for preparing your Terra Char for use, and just as many products. The key is finding the method that works best for you. Below are a few suggestions based on what we have tried and what has worked for us. If you have or know of something that works well for you please feel free to share it with us! We love to pass along new information and are always willing to try new methods and expand our knowledge base. We have used the products listed with good results and as such we carry the products and are making them available to you as well.

Method 1 –Terra Char: Terra Char (and biochar in general) is not a fertilizer and is meant to be used in conjunction with fertilizer or other soil amendments. Terra Char alone will help sandy or drought prone soils (as it is able to absorb and retain up to 6 times its weight in water) and aid in aeration for clay type soils. When applied alone Terra Char will draw and hold the nutrients that already exist in the soil. Unfortunately most soil is depleted and offers little in the way of nutrients to begin with. Adding Terra Char alone will help increase soil quality as it acts as "home" for beneficial bacteria, fungi and other micro-organisms and provides an environment that encourages their growth - "if you build it they will come" - eventually. Therefore, we strongly recommend "loading up" or inoculating your Terra Char prior to introducing it to your soil. That being said, once you have determined the length of time you would like to spread your application over and the amount of Terra Char that you will need per application prep time will be minimal. Terra Char should be broadcast over the surface of the intended area then tilled to a depth of 4-8 inches deep (depending on root depth). No further prep is needed and you are ready to plant your seeds or seedlings.

Method 2 – Terra Char & Bio-Ag: Mix 1 litre of Bio-Ag into 10 gallons of water; preferably rain or well water (if using treated water with chlorine let water sit for 24 hours prior to mixing as chlorine is hard on microbe bacteria). Pour entire contents of 5 gallon bucket of Terra Char into mixture and let sit for 48 hours to allow Terra Char to absorb the beneficial microbial bacteria. Terra Char should be broadcast over the surface of the intended area then tilled to a depth of 4-8 inches deep (depending on root depth). You are ready to plant your seeds or seedlings.

Method 3 – Terra Char & Dry Compost: Blend contents of 5 gallon bucket of Terra Char with 3-5 buckets of compost and wet down. Let mixture sit for 2-4 weeks before applying to garden area. This allows time for the Terra Char to absorb the nutrients, nitrogen and bacteria from the compost. Mixture can then be broadcast over the surface of the intended area then tilled to a depth of 4-8 inches deep (depending on root depth). You are then ready to plant your seeds or seedlings.

Method 4 – Terra Char & Wet Compost: If you have wet compost drain the black tea and disperse on soil or garden area (although microbes like a warm, moist environment too much moisture will kill them). Mix contents of a 5 gallon bucket of Terra Char with 3-5 buckets of compost. Let mixture sit for 2-4 weeks before applying to garden area. This allows time for the Terra Char to absorb the nutrients, nitrogen and bacteria from the compost. Mixture can then be broadcast over the surface of the intended area then tilled to a depth of 4-8 inches deep (depending on root depth). You are then ready to plant your seeds or seedlings.

Method 5 – Terra Char, Bio-Ag & Compost: Follow preparation instructions for Method 2, then instructions for either Method 3 or Method 4 (depending on the type of compost you have). Mixture can then be broadcast over the surface of the intended area then tilled to a depth of 4-8 inches deep (depending on root depth) and you are then ready to plant your seeds or seedlings.