



## About the ECUA and the Facility

### Who is ECUA?

ECUA is a local government body, existing under the laws of the State of Florida. ECUA's powers are exercised by a five-member elected Board. ECUA provides garbage, yard waste, and recycling collection to unincorporated Escambia County (EC). Additionally, ECUA also owns and manages the potable water and wastewater collection and treatment systems for most of the unincorporated areas of EC and the City of Pensacola.

The Mission of the ECUA is to promote the quality of life of the Emerald Coast by providing quality potable water, wastewater treatment, and sanitation collection services (yard waste, garbage, and recycling) in an effective and efficient manner.

In 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permitted ECUA to construct and operate a Biosolids Composting Facility at its Central Water Reclamation Facility. Construction of the new Biosolids Composting Facility began in April 2015. Pilot testing launched in late October, producing the first batch of finished compost in late 2015! The Biosolids Composting Facility is 20 acres, with a daily capacity of accepting 80 tons of biosolids and 400 cubic yards of yard waste.



### Contact Us!

Biosolids Compost Facility Location:  
ECUA's Central Water Reclamation Plant  
2980 Old Chemstrand Road  
Cantonment, FL 32533

Hours of operation:  
7:00am to 5:00pm,  
Monday through Friday

To request a **tour** or to **purchase**  
Emerald Coast bloom, please contact:

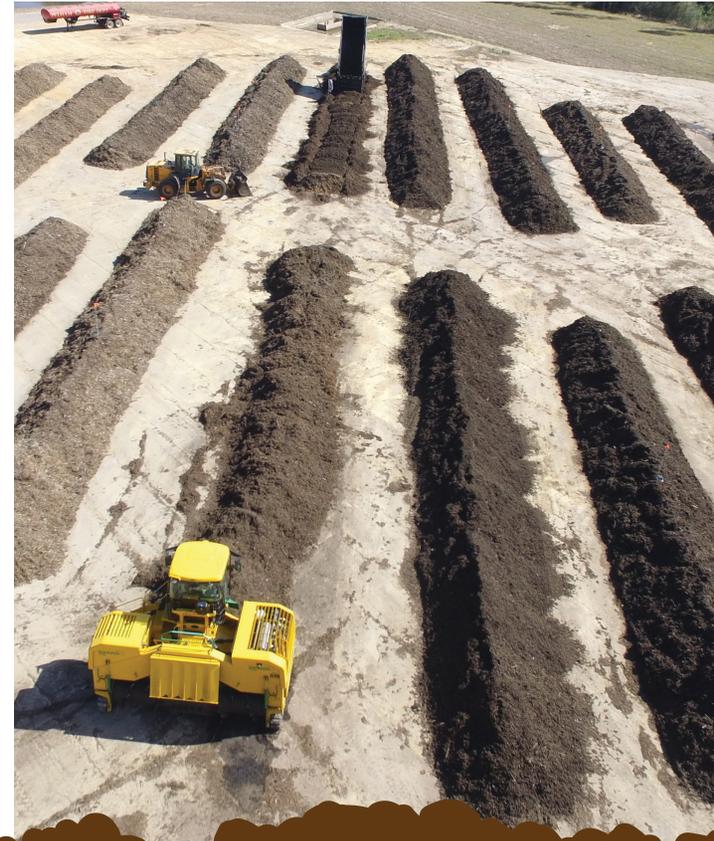
Amanda Handrahan, Recycling Coordinator  
Phone: (850) 969-6606  
Fax: (850) 944-1626  
Email: [Amanda.Handrahan@ecua.fl.gov](mailto:Amanda.Handrahan@ecua.fl.gov)

Visit us at  
[www.livegreenecua.com/composting.php](http://www.livegreenecua.com/composting.php)



## Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Biosolids Composting Facility

Emerald Coast  
**bloom**  
• The Most in Bio-Compost •





## What is Emerald Coast bloom?

Compost is nature's fertilizer!

ECUA combines yard waste and biosolids sludge to create the safe, nutrient-dense and environmentally-friendly soil amendment we call "bloom." Prior to ECUA composting, yard waste was destined for landfilling and biosolids underwent a costly, energy-intensive drying process. New biosolids composting marries both components for the benefit of soil enrichment!



Our product contains the "big three" nutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. It *reduces and eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers*, protecting our waters and potentially saving money.

Emerald Coast bloom is currently marketed to Agricultural Farms, Landscape Contractors, Nurseries, Golf Course Managers, and more. Commercial uses include turf establishment, roadside plantings, erosion control, and land reclamation, restoration and remediation.

## How the product is made.

ECUA uses a Modified Static Aerobic Pile (MSAP) method. This method is approved by EPA Region 4 and the FDEP.

### Here's How it Works!

Biosolids and yard waste are mixed in an approximately 3:1 ratio for optimal moisture, porosity, carbon-to-nitrogen ratio, and temperature. The mixture is laid out in elongated piles called "windrows," which are then covered with additional yard waste. The compost is mechanically turned and mixed twice within 45 days, then screened carefully for a pure and uniform product. The MSAP composting method reduces costs and odors, and saves space!

### Compost creates healthier soil.

- ✓ A 5% increase in organic material, quadruples soils water holding capacity.
- ✓ Breaks down organics into readily available nutrients.
- ✓ May suppress disease and harmful pests.
- ✓ Creates a healthy root system.
- ✓ Can reduce the use of chemical pesticides.

### Brown is the New Green, Leaf the Plastic Behind! *Residential yard waste is now a resource*

Yard waste is a valuable element in creating compost. ECUA's new **Brown is the New Green, Leaf the Plastic Behind** campaign is working to ensure the best quality compost by reducing potential contaminants. Inorganic material, such as plastic bags, cannot be composted and will harm the degradation process. ECUA encourages its residents to use compostable brown paper bags, a healthier addition to composting, to keep your compost clean.



## Certified for You!

Emerald Coast bloom achieved the U.S. Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA), which certifies that the finished compost product consistently meets the program's high-quality standards.

The product is regularly tested to achieve Class AA quality of federal and state standards and ensures the following properties:

- ✓ High organic matter content
- ✓ Macro and micronutrient contents (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium)
- ✓ Ideal moisture content
- ✓ Balanced pH
- ✓ Free from pathogens
- ✓ Low heavy metals (e.g., arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc)
- ✓ Balanced soluble salts
- ✓ Stable and mature

Utilizing compost as mulch, in the soil or as potting media, provides many benefits.

