biostart®

Organic Digester

Technical Sheet
Grapes, Pipfruit & Nuts

Organic Digester is a soil microbial stimulator that activates beneficial naturally occurring saprophytic microbes in your soil that are responsible for plant material decomposition.

How does Organic Digester work?

Organic Digester is used to promote the rapid breakdown of leaf litter, cover crops, old roots and post-harvest crop trash in horticultural crops.

Applied directly to residual plant material, **Organic Digester** activates decomposition microbes already present in the soil.

Organic Digester reduces disease on the following crop by completely decomposing the plant material that plant pathogens use as a host over winter.

The benefits of using Organic Digester:

- Accelerates crop residue, pruning and leaf litter decomposition to return nutrients and organic matter to the soil efficiently
- Improves plant nutrition for the next crop
- Reduces disease overwintering
- Increases the soil's cation exchange capacity (CEC)
- Improves the water holding capacity of the soil
- Improved soil aeration and root growth by breaking down old roots in mature orchards and vineyards.

Direction for use

- Apply **Organic Digester** directly on to leaf litter, prunings and other crop residues.
- Requires soil moisture/rain and active soil biology.
- **Organic Digester** can be tank mixed with fertigation nutrients and suspension fertiliser.
- **Organic Digester** can be applied through fertigation systems and through overhead irrigation systems fitted with an appropriate system.
- In low organic matter soils, low fertility soils or after drought add organic nitrogen fertiliser.
- For best results avoid applying **Organic Digester** in the heat of the day.
- Treated crop residues should be lightly incorporated where possible in order to maintain moisture.

For specific crop recommendations contact your local BioStart representative.

Crop	Timing	Application Rate	Co-application
Grapes	Post Harvest: From early autumn through to mulching early winter	Standard programme: Apply **4 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water applied over leaf litter and prunings to the soil over the whole vineyard floor. If prunings are to be mulched then apply a total of **4 L/ha**: in early autumn apply **2 L/ha** on to prunings, and apply a further **2 L/ha** after the prunings have been mulched. Premium Programme or for heavy disease overwintering, cut-out diseased vines, compacted or water-logged soil: Apply **4 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L applied over leaf litter & prunings to the soil over the whole vineyard floor. If prunings are to be mulched then apply a total of **6 L/ha**: in early autumn apply **4 L/ha** on to prunings, and apply a further **2 L/ha** after the prunings have been mulched.	**To reduce application cost:** Co-apply with other commonly used organic fertilisers. Digester can be applied via ground sprays, overhead sprinklers or fertigation systems. For high crop residue levels an organic nitrogen source may be recommended to further assist decomposition. Call BioStart for further information.
Pipfruit, Berries Stonefruit, Citrus, & Avocadoes	autumn/Post-harvest; Post-pruning &/or leaf fall	**4 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water applied over leaf litter and prunings to the soil. For heavy disease over-wintering, cut-out diseased orchards, compacted or water-logged soil: **6 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water.	
Kiwifruit	autumn/Post-harvest; Post-pruning &/or leaf fall	**6 L/ha** in a minimum of 1000 L of water applied over leaf litter and prunings to the soil. For heavy disease over-wintering, cut-out diseased orchards, compacted or water-logged soil: **8 L/ha** in a minimum of 1000 L of water.	
Vegetables incl' sweetcorn	Post harvest	**4 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water applied over crop trash to the soil. For crops with heavy disease over-wintering e.g. asparagus apply **6 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water.	
Pasture & Turf	autumn	**2 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water.	
Maize & Cereal Silage	Post harvest	Apply **2 L/ha** in a minimum 200 L of water to the soil during or after stubble incorporation.	
Maize for grain	Post harvest	Apply **4 L/ha** in a minimum of 200 L of water to soil during or after stubble incorporation.	

Pack sizes available: 10 and 20 litre