



## Cape Alliance for Pesticide Education

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Non-Toxic Strategies for a Sustainable Cape Cod

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### Branded products that contain sewage sludge/biosolids\*

Source: *Sludge News*. 2006. *About Sewage Sludge*. <http://bit.ly/w2n8bh>

- Agresoil (MA)
- All-Gro (Synagro)
- Bay State Fertilizer (Boston, MA)
- Chesapeake Sunshine
- CompostT (Pennsylvania)
- ComPro (Washington, D.C.)
- Dillo Dirt (Austin, TX)
- EarthBlends (New York City, a product of Synagro, sold by WeCare)
- Earthlife (New England, a product of New England Organics)
- EarthMate (Philadelphia, PA)
- EKO Compost (Missoula, Maui, Lewiston plant on Idaho-Washington border)
- Glacier Gold (Olney, MT)
- Granulite (Synagro)
- GroCo (Seattle, WA)
- Growers' Blend by Earthwise Organics (a Synagro subsidiary)
- Hou-Actinite (Houston, TX)
- Kellogg Nitrohumus, Gromulch, Amend and Topper (Kellogg Garden Products, Los Angeles, CA)
- Landscapers' Advantage (Camden, NJ)
- MetroGro (Madison, WI)
- Milorganite (Milwaukee, WI)
- Mine Mix (Philadelphia, PA)
- Miracle-Gro Organic Choice Garden Soil
- Nutri-Green (Virginia Beach, VA)
- N-Viro BioBlend
- N-Viro Soil
- Oceangro (NJ)
- ORGRO (Baltimore, MD, Veolia Water North America)
- SilviGrow (Seattle, WA)
- SoundGro (Pierce County, WA)
- TAGRO (Tacoma, WA)
- TOPGRO (Los Angeles, CA)
- Unity Fertilizer (Unity Envirotech LLC, Florida-based)
- WeCare Compost (NY)

*\*Sewage sludge or biosolid products can be disguised in many different ways, sometimes it is sold as "compost," while other times it's dried into pellets and bagged, or blended into other fertilizers. There are no labeling requirements for biosolid-containing fertilizers. Additionally, there is no federal rule that prohibits the use of the term "organic" on biosolids, despite the fact that there is no USDA organic certification of biosolids.*

## • What can you do about toxic sludge?

- **Think upstream.** Keep chemicals out of sludge by choosing safer household and personal care products. Learn more at [www.healthlegacy.org/consumerpower.cfm](http://www.healthlegacy.org/consumerpower.cfm).
- **Buy "certified organic"** when possible—especially meat and dairy—and vegetables known to take up sludge contaminants, including roots and tubers such as potatoes, sweet potatoes and carrots, and leafy vegetables such as lettuce and spinach. Federal organic standards prohibit sewage sludge application to crop- or pastureland for a minimum of three years immediately preceding harvest.
- **Support local growers who don't use sludge.** Absent labeling requirements, check with the farmer.
- **Wash and peel produce** to help reduce (but not eliminate) exposure to disease-causing organisms and chemicals.
- **Avoid home use of sludge-based fertilizers.** Some products are made entirely from sludge. Others are a blend of sludge with materials such as leaves, sawdust and food waste. Most sludge products are only marketed locally or regionally. Others, such as **Milorganite®**, (and others listed on the previous page) are sold in home and garden stores nationwide. Find the names of known sludge-based fertilizer products at [www.healthobservatory.org](http://www.healthobservatory.org).
- **Choose landscapers wisely.** Screen landscape/lawn care companies before hiring to make sure they will not use sludge-based fertilizer products on your lawn or garden.
- **Encourage elected officials** to ban use of sewage sludge on agricultural land and home gardens; in the absence of a ban, require labeling of food produced from sludge-amended soil and promote policies that incentivize manufacturers to create safer products using clean, innovative technologies that do not put toxic chemicals into the waste stream.
- **Source: *The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy***