



**BUYER BEWARE...**  
**NOT ALL COMPOSTS ARE SAFE!**

**AVOID PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN INDUSTRIAL WASTES AND "BIOSOLIDS." READ LABELS CAREFULLY AND RESEARCH THE FERTILIZER YOU PLAN TO BUY.**

- Avoid purchasing soil amendments or composts that are made from industrial waste, and sewage sludge called "biosolids."
- Sewage sludge is the byproduct of whatever is put down the drain in hospitals, businesses, households and factories.
- "Biosolids" can contain pathogens and contaminants such as dioxins, PCBs, endocrine disrupting chemicals, arsenic, lead, mercury, cadmium, pharmaceuticals, surfactants and other persistent and toxic pollutants, many of which are neither monitored nor regulated.
- "Biosolids" can pollute groundwater and wells, harm living organisms and degrade agricultural soil. Plants raised in and livestock that feed from such soils take up some of the contaminants.
- Deceptively labeled as "organic" and "natural", retailers are often unaware of the makeup of these composts and soil amendments sold under a number of brand names.

***For more information visit:***

[www.sludgefacts.org](http://www.sludgefacts.org)

[www.sludgefacts.org](http://www.sludgefacts.org)

[cwmi.css.cornell.edu/sewagesludge.htm](http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/sewagesludge.htm)

Dr. David Lewis. ***Science For Sale.*** 2014

*In February, the Washington Post reported that the concentration of intersexed fish is greatest near towns or near heavily farmed land. One major source of these endocrine disruptors is thought to be the post-treatment "cleaned" water from municipal sewage treatment centers that is discharged directly into the Potomac River system and runoff from fields "fertilized" with sludge.*

*In 2006, U.S. Geological Survey scientists surveyed chemical contaminants found in sludge "destined for land application" and concluded, "Potential concerns about the environmental presence of OWCs [Organic Wastewater Contaminants] include adverse physiological effects, increased rates of cancer, and reproductive impairment in humans and other animals, as well as antibiotic resistance among pathogenic bacteria."*

MAY 21, 2008 JOEL BLEIFUSS *Piling it High: The sewage sludge industry meets the light of day*  
[www.inthesetimes.com/article/3688](http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3688)



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