



## Biochar

### Biochar as SOIL CHAR

Biochar is highly versatile, whether it is applied as a soil improver in agriculture, gardening and landscaping, or in animal husbandry and biogas production.

Biochar is no fertilizer or nutrient in itself, but due to its surface structure (1g~300 m<sup>2</sup>) it serves as an ideal reservoir for water and nutrients and as a habitat for useful microorganisms. Due to its steadiness concerning degradation in the soil, biochar is a sustainable and durable soil improver.

### At a glance

- Substantially improves soil fertility
- Increases retention capability in humus-poor and sandy soils
- Loosens heavy and compressed soils
- Stores up to 5 times its own weight in water including the nutrients dissolved therein
- Offers an optimal habitat for microorganisms
- Active contribution to climate protection

## Application examples

### ⦿ **Charging biochar with compost**

When setting up a compost heap, mix in 10 Vol.-% of biochar. For the manufacture of a substrate resembling Terra Preta, additional clay powder (15 Vol.-%) and primary rock powder (5 Vol.-%) can be added.

### ⦿ **Charging biochar with manure**

For the treatment of manure, add 1 – 5 Vol.-% of biochar into the manure pit.

### ⦿ **Charging biochar with solid manure**

Mix 10 Vol.-% biochar into preferably fresh manure.

### ⦿ **Mixing biochar into stable bedding**

Strew stable bedding with 5 – 10 Vol.-% of biochar at regular intervals of 1 – 2 weeks.

### ⦿ **Application of uncharged biochar**

Apply 0,1 – 0,5 kg/ m<sup>2</sup> of biochar in autumn, so that the char can accumulate water and nutrients during the winter months.

*Source: Scheub, Pieplow, Schmidt (2013): Terra Preta. Die schwarze Revolution aus dem Regenwald, Schmidt, Hans-Peter (2011): Wege zu Terra Preta – Aktivierung von Pflanzenkohle*

We only recommend the application of uncharged biochar in autumn. Otherwise the expected positive effect can, at least in the first year, be reversed, as the char needs to accumulate microorganisms and nutrients in the soil first.

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