Hi-Carbon Bichar from Greencarbonproducts.com Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is biochar?

Biochar is a carbon-rich material created by heating organic matter (pure Osgoode forestry wood residues in our case) in a low-oxygen environment. It improves soil fertility, retains nutrients, enhances microbial activity, and helps with carbon sequestration.

2. How do I apply biochar?

Biochar can be applied by mixing it directly into the soil or blending it with compost or manure before application. Work it into the top 4–6 inches (10–15 cm) of soil for best results.

3. How much biochar should I apply?

Less is better. A general recommendation is **3% by volume of the topsoil**. Adjust based on soil type and crop needs.

4. How long do I need to wait when mixed with manure or compost?

For best results, allow biochar to sit in manure or compost for **1–4 weeks** before applying to soil. This "charging" process helps biochar absorb nutrients and microbial life.

5. When will I see results after applying biochar?

Some benefits, like improved water retention and aeration, are immediate. However, soil health improvements and increased yields may take **one or more growing seasons**. Monitor your soil after adding biochar and add nutrients and microbes to stabilize the biochar and reduce the risk of nutrient diversion.

6. How does biochar help in different soil types?

- Clay soil: Reduces compaction, improves aeration, and enhances drainage.
- Sandy soil: Increases water retention and nutrient-holding capacity.

- Loamy soil: Boosts microbial life and improves overall soil structure.
- Silty soil: Prevents nutrient leaching and enhances soil stability.

7. I have too much water in my soil. What will biochar do?

Biochar improves drainage by increasing pore space in the soil, helping excess water to drain while retaining some moisture for plant roots.

8. Can I use biochar in potted plants and raised beds?

Yes! Mix **3% biochar by volume** into your potting mix or raised bed soil to improve aeration, nutrient retention, and water efficiency.

9. Is biochar safe for organic gardening?

Yes! Biochar is a natural soil amendment and is often approved for use in organic farming, provided it is free from contaminants. Our biochar is made with pure wood from trees like fir and poplar and quenched with water making those the only two ingredients.

10. Can biochar replace fertilizer?

No, biochar **enhances** the effectiveness of fertilizers by retaining nutrients in the soil for longer. It should be used alongside compost, manure, or fertilizers for the best results.

11. Does biochar affect soil pH?

Our Biochar is **slightly alkaline** (pH 9.5), which can help neutralize acidic soils. If you have highly alkaline soil, use biochar cautiously and in smaller amounts.

12. Does biochar work in all climates?

Yes! Biochar benefits soils in both dry and wet climates by **improving moisture retention** and **enhancing soil aeration**.

13. Can I mix biochar with compost?

Yes! Mixing biochar with compost **pre-charges** it with nutrients and beneficial microbes, making it more effective in the soil. Use a 10–30% biochar-to-compost ratio.

14. Does biochar help with soil erosion?

Yes. Biochar **binds soil particles** together, improving soil structure and reducing erosion caused by wind and water.

15. Is biochar effective in preventing nutrient leaching?

Yes! Biochar has a **high surface area** and **porous structure**, which traps nutrients and prevents them from washing away with irrigation or rain.

16. Can biochar help with plant diseases?

Biochar supports beneficial microbes that **suppress soil-borne pathogens**, leading to healthier plants with stronger immune systems.

17. How long does biochar last in soil?

Biochar is extremely stable and **can remain in soil for hundreds to thousands of years**, continuing to benefit soil health long-term.

18. Can I use biochar for lawns and turf?

Yes! Apply **(1 mm) of biochar** to your lawn and rake it into the soil. It enhances root growth, improves water retention, and reduces the need for fertilizers.

19. Is biochar the same as charcoal?

No. While both are carbon-rich, **biochar is a natural soil improvement**, whereas **charcoal is typically used for fuel and may contain additives**.

20. How does biochar help with carbon sequestration?

Biochar locks carbon in the soil for centuries, **reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our community** and improving soil health. It's a sustainable way to store carbon while boosting agriculture.

21. Can I use it in indoor plants?

A: Yes, it can be used indoors or outdoors.

22. How often should I use it?

A: Once added to the soil, biochar lasts for years. You can mix it in seasonally for new

plantings.

For further questions contact:

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