



# THE AUSTRALIAN PIGEON CENTRE

*"Where Passion takes Flight"*

## **Pigeon Manure is better than other Animal Manure!**

By Barry Trewin

Pigeon manure is considered extremely beneficial for plants due to its phosphorus levels. Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth and development, promoting root development, flowering, and fruit production. However, it is crucial to maintain an appropriate balance of phosphorus in the soil, as excessive amounts can potentially harm plants.

Compared to other animal manures, such as chicken manure, pigeon manure is often preferred because it contains lower levels of phosphorus. This is beneficial because excessive phosphorus in the soil can lead to a condition called phosphorus burn, where plants experience nutrient imbalances and suffer from stunted growth or even die off.

Pigeons have a unique digestive process that results in the production of manure with lower phosphorus content. Pigeons efficiently digest the grains they consume, allowing for better utilisation of nutrients and a cleaner excretion of waste. This results in manure with a more balanced nutrient composition, including lower phosphorus levels.

By using pigeon manure as a fertiliser, gardeners and farmers can provide plants with the necessary phosphorus without risking phosphorus burn. The nutrient rich manure helps promote healthy plant growth, improves soil fertility, and enhances overall crop productivity.

It is important to note that while pigeon manure may be advantageous in terms of phosphorus levels, it is still necessary to use any type of manure or fertiliser in appropriate quantities. Proper application rates and following recommended guidelines will ensure that plants receive adequate nutrients without the risk of over-fertilisation.

Additionally, pigeon manure offers other advantages over other animal manures.

Firstly, pigeon manure has a higher nitrogen content compared to chicken manure. Nitrogen is another essential nutrient for plants, playing a crucial role in promoting leafy growth and overall plant vigour. The higher nitrogen content in pigeon manure makes it a valuable fertiliser for crops that require a boost in vegetative growth.

Secondly, pigeon manure tends to have a lower moisture content compared to chicken manure. This is advantageous because excessive moisture in manure can lead to odour issues and create an environment conducive to the growth of harmful bacteria. Pigeon manure, with its lower moisture content, is less likely to produce offensive odours and is generally easier to handle and store.

Furthermore, pigeon manure is known to have a milder and less "hot" quality compared to some other types of animal manures. This means that pigeon manure is less likely to cause excessive nutrient release or burn plant roots, making it a safer option for plant health.

Lastly, pigeon manure is readily available and easily collected, as pigeons are commonly found in urban areas and can be kept in coops or lofts. This accessibility makes it a convenient source of organic fertiliser for home gardeners and small scale farmers who may not have access to larger quantities of other animal manures.

Overall, pigeon manure stands out as a favourable option for fertilising plants due to its lower phosphorus levels, less odour emittance, higher nitrogen content, lower moisture content, milder quality, and accessibility. However, it is still important to use any type of manure sensibly, following recommended application rates and considering the specific nutrient needs of the plants being cultivated.

### **A Comparison of Pigeon Manure to manure from various other Animals:**

#### **1. *Pigeon Manure vs. Chicken Manure:***

- Pigeon manure has lower phosphorus levels compared to chicken manure, reducing the risk of phosphorus burn in plants.
- Pigeon manure has a higher nitrogen content, which is beneficial for promoting vegetative growth.
- Pigeon manure tends to have a lower moisture content, making it easier to handle and store.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

#### **2. *Pigeon Manure vs. Duck Manure:***

- Both pigeon and duck manure are rich in nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, which are beneficial for plant growth.
- Duck manure may have a higher moisture content compared to pigeon manure, requiring proper handling to prevent odour issues.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

#### **3. *Pigeon Manure vs. Cow Manure:***

- Cow manure is known for its high nutrient content, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, making it a valuable organic fertiliser.
- Pigeon manure typically has lower nutrient levels compared to cow manure but can still provide beneficial amounts of nitrogen and other essential nutrients.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

#### **4. *Pigeon Manure vs. Horse Manure:***

- Horse manure is relatively low in nitrogen but contains higher levels of phosphorus and potassium compared to pigeon manure.
- Pigeon manure has a milder quality and lower moisture content compared to horse manure.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

#### **5. *Pigeon Manure vs. Sheep & Goat Manure:***

- Sheep and goat manure generally has higher nitrogen content compared to pigeon manure.
- Pigeon manure has lower phosphorus levels compared to sheep and goat manure.
- Both types of manure can be valuable organic fertilisers, but their nutrient profiles differ slightly.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

#### **6. *Pigeon Manure vs. Dog Manure:***

- Dog manure is typically not used as a fertiliser due to potential contamination risks and issues with odour and pathogens.
- Pigeon manure, on the other hand, can be collected and used as a fertiliser due to its nutrient content and relatively low odour.
- Pigeon manure emits less odour.

It's important to note that the nutrient content of manure can vary depending on factors such as diet, management practices, and bedding materials. Additionally, proper composting or aging of manure is often recommended to reduce potential risks and enhance its effectiveness as a fertiliser.

## **Pigeons Manure smell is not as pungent as other Animal Manure!**

Pigeon manure is generally known to have a milder and less pungent smell compared to some other types of animal manures. The odour of manure can vary depending on factors such as the animal's diet, the moisture content of the manure, and the decomposition process.

Compared to manure from animals like cows, horses, or pigs, pigeon manure tends to have a less overpowering smell. This can be advantageous, especially when using the manure in urban or residential areas where strong odours can be a concern.

However, it's important to note that even though pigeon manure has a milder smell, it can still emit an odour if not properly managed. Like any type of manure, proper handling, storage, and composting techniques can help minimise and control the smell associated with pigeon manure.

By managing the composting process effectively and ensuring proper aeration and moisture levels, the odour from pigeon manure can be further reduced. This can be particularly beneficial when using the manure in garden beds or agricultural fields near inhabited areas, where controlling strong odours is essential.

Overall, while pigeon manure has a milder smell compared to other animal manures, it is still important to manage it appropriately to mitigate any potential odour concerns.