UPDATE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES
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Landscapers will enjoy increased access to organic amendments as municipalities strive to meet AB 939. AB 939 requires California municipalities to divert 25% of the waste stream from landfills by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000. Yard trimming comprise approximately 18% of municipal wastes and many of these will be processes into composts. Biosolids (sewage sludge) products will also become increasingly available.

The ultimate price of composts and mulches will depend on the cost of collecting, processing, and distributing the product. Environmental regulations may significantly raise the cost of composting operations, but these regulations are currently still in development by the various boards of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Federal regulations govern the use of biosolids, materials that can serve as both organic amendments and fertilizers. Because transportation constitutes the most expensive waste management activity, cities may find landscape uses more economical than alternatives such as farmland use.