

COMPOST QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING

[Source: Von Isaman MS, President of QA Consulting and Testing LLC, Dr. Rich Koenig, USU Cooperative Extension Soils Specialist, and Dr. Teresa Cerny, USU Cooperative Extension Horticulturalist, 3 March 2003]

Category	pH ^a	Soluble Salts ^a dS/m or mmho/cm	Sodium Adsorption Ratio ^a (SAR)	Carbon Nitrogen Ratio ^b (C:N)	Percent Moisture ^c	≥ 98 percent Coarse Material Passing (dry wt basis)
Ideal	6 to 8	≤ 5	< 10	≤ 20:1	25 to 35	3/8 inch (9.5 mm)
Acceptable	5-6, 8-9	≤ 10	≤ 20	21:1 to 30:1	< 25, > 35	3/4 inch (19 mm)
Suspect	< 5, > 9	> 10	> 20	<10:1, > 30:1	< 20, > 50	< 98 percent 3/4 inch (19 mm)

^a 1.5 Compost: Water Slurry on Coarse Material passing **3/8 inch (9.5 mm)**.

^b on Coarse Material passing **3/8 inch (9.5 mm)**.

^c on Total Sample

For composts with biosolid feedstocks, biosolids must meet EPA 503 Class A standard.

Acceptable level Soluble Salts and/or SAR composts should not exceed **3 cu yds (2.29 cu m) /1,000 sq ft (93 sq m)** for every **3 inches (76 mm)** of soil depth.

COMPOST VERIFICATION REPORT

	pH ^a	Soluble Salts ^a dS/m or mmho/cm	Sodium Adsorption Ratio ^a (SAR)	Carbon Nitrogen Ratio ^b (C:N)	Percent Moisture ^c	≥ 98 percent Coarse Material Passing (dry wt basis)
Results						

See Compost Quality Guidelines for Landscaping for footnote references.

I hereby certify that the Compost meets Ideal or Acceptable requirements as set forth in COMPOST QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING as listed with the COMPOST VERIFICATION STATEMENT. If Compost does not fall within this range, explain why and justify.

Signature: _____ Printed Signature: _____

Date: _____