



# Compost Filter Berm Class

## Description

The US Composting Council has developed Erosion and Sediment Control Compost Use Specifications to provide the professional with a guide for compost application for erosion and sediment control. Use of this product meets the acceptable parameter range for erosion and sediment control use for Compost Filter Berms. For more information please go to [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

**Table 1-Compost Parameters for Compost Filter Berm Use**

Parameter <sup>1,4</sup>	Unit	Acceptable Vegetative	Acceptable Non-Vegetative	Notes:
Stability <sup>3</sup>	mg CO <sub>2</sub> -C per g OM per day	<4	N/A	The lower the number, the more completely composted the product.
Maturity	% seed emergence & vigor	> 80	N/A	The higher the percentage, the more mature the product.
Moisture Content	% wet weight basis	30-60	30-60	Products with higher moisture contents may be used. They may simply be more difficult to apply.
Organic Matter Content	% dry weight basis	25-65	25-100	This is important for filtration and bioremediation.
Particle Size	Screen size to pass through	3" (75mm) 100% passing 1" (25mm) 90% passing ¾" (19mm) 70% passing ¼" (6.4mm) 30% passing  Maximum: particle size length 6" (152mm) (no more than 60% passing ¼" (6.4mm) in high rainfall/flow rate situations)	3" (75mm) 100% passing 1" (25mm) 90% passing ¾" (19mm) 70% passing ¼" (6.4mm) 30% passing  Maximum: particle size length 6" (152mm) (no more than 50% passing ¼" (6.4mm) in high rainfall/flow rate situations)	This is important for the passive flow of water.
pH <sup>2</sup>	pH units	6.0-8.5	N/A	Modify soil pH with lime, etc., if vegetating and necessary, based on plant requirements.
Soluble Salts (Electrical Conductivity) <sup>2</sup>	dS/m (mmhos/cm) dry weight basis	<5	N/A	Only relevant if vegetating berms. Keep in mind that most soluble salts are also plant nutrients. Compost containing a higher soluble salt content may be used if 'watered in' well.
Physical Contaminants*	% dry weight basis	<0.25	< 1	Small stones may be deemed more acceptable than man-made inerts (e.g., plastic).

<sup>1</sup> Recommended test methodologies are provided in Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC, The US Composting Council)

<sup>2</sup> Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. When specifying the establishment of any plant or turf species, it is important to understand their pH and soluble salt requirements, and how they relate to the compost in use.

<sup>3</sup> Stability/Maturity rating is an area of compost science that is still evolving, and as such, other various test methods could be considered. Also, never base compost quality conclusions on the result of a single stability/maturity test.

<sup>4</sup> Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

\*All federal and state standards related to biological and chemical contamination must also be met. Testing parameters above are based on Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC). <https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/TMECC>

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**Reference: Amended from AASHTO Specifications/R. Alexander 2018**