



Compost Blanket 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 Blankets. For more information please go to www.compostingcouncil.org

Table 1 - Compost Parameters for Compost Blanket Use

Parameter ^{1,4}	Unit	Acceptable Vegetative	Acceptable Non-Vegetative	Notes:
Stability ³	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	<4	< 4	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 germination and establishing vegetation.
Particle Size	Screen size to pass through	99% passing 3", 90-100% pass 1", 65-100% pass ¾", 0-75% pass ¼" Maximum: particle size length 6" (152mm)	99% passing 3", 90-100% pass 1", 65-100% pass ¾", 0-75% pass ¼" Maximum: particle size length 6" (152mm)	This is important for slope stabilization and to establish vegetation.
pH ²	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)	dS/m (mmhos/cm) dry weight basis	<5	N/A	Keep in mind that most soluble salts are also plant nutrients. Compost containing a higher soluble salt content should be applied at lower application rates, and 'watered in' well.
Physical Contaminants*	% dry weight basis	<0.25	<0.25	Small stones may be deemed more acceptable than man-made inerts (e.g., plastic).

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

² 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.

³ 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.

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

Very coarse compost should be avoided if the slope is to be landscaped or seeded as it will make planting and crop establishment more difficult.

In regions subject to higher rates of precipitation and/or rainfall intensity, higher compost application rates should be used. In these particular regions, as well as regions subject to wind erosion, coarser compost products are preferred.

Notes: Specifying the use of compost products that are certified by the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program (www.compostingcouncil.org) will allow for the acquisition of products that are analyzed on a routine basis, using the specified test methods. STA participants are also required to provide a standard product label to all customers, allowing easy comparison to other products.

*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>

Reference: Amended from AASHTO Specifications/R. Alexander 2018