



COMPOST/SOIL AMENDMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

There is no implied warranty or product performance guarantee associated with this Classification System

	CLASS I Fully composted, stable, mature product	CLASS II Fully composted, stable mature product	CLASS III Semi-composted dehydrated product	CLASS IV Non-composted feedstock product
Minimum Stability Indicator (Respirometry)	Stable to Very Stable	Stable	Unstable to Moderately Unstable	Unstable
Maturity Indicator Expressed as AmmoniaN / NitrateN Ratio	< 4	< 6	N/A	N/A
Maturity Indicator Expressed as Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio	< 12	< 18	< 25	N/A
Maturity Indicator Expressed as Percentage of Germination / Vigor	80+ / 80+	N/A	N/A	N/A
pH – Acceptable Range (1:5 by weight)	6.0 - 8.4	6.0 - 8.4	6.0 – 9.0	N/A
Soluble Salts – Acceptable Range (1:5 by weight)	0 - 5 mmhos/cm	5 - 10 mmhos/cm	< 30 mmhos/cm	N/A
Testing and Test Report Submittal Requirement	STA / TMECC	STA / TMECC	STA / TMECC	Primary & Secondary Nutrient Testing
Chemical Contaminants	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.13, Tables 1& 3 levels	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.13, Tables 1& 3 levels	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.13, Tables 1& 3 levels	N/A
Bulk Density; % Inorganics; % Moisture; Particle Size Distribution, Primary, Secondary Nutrients; Trace Elements; Organic Matter Expressed in Percentage and Pounds Per CY	Must Report	Must Report	Must Report	Must Report
Pathogens	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a) levels	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a) levels	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a) levels	N/A
Minimum Manufacturing Production Requirement	Each composting facility must be fully permitted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or their appropriate state agency. If it is exempt from state permitting requirements, it will certify that it follows all guidelines and procedures for production of compost meeting EPA 40 CFR 503.13 requirements for production and marketing of Class A material for unrestricted use and distribution. Written certification from manufacturer is required.			
Applications <i>Note: The listed applications for the various compost class designations are intended for general consideration purposes. The actual use or application of any class of material can be subjective depending on the soil characteristics, quantity used, the method of incorporation, and other factors utilized by the buyer or user.</i>	Horticultural, Nursery, Container Mixes, Turf, Sod, Seed Bed Preparation, Raised Garden, Vegetable Gardens, Top Soil Blends, Backfill, Erosion Control. Watering to leach excess salts not required. Can be applied at high volume. Incorporation can be at shallower depths.	Turf, Sod, Seed Bed Preparation, Raised Garden, Vegetable Gardens, Top Soil Blends, Backfill, Erosion Control. If possible, incorporate at least 60 days prior to planting and water thoroughly before and after planting. Incorporation is important.	Crop production, Turf and Top Soil blends with limitations. Backfill, Erosion Control, Mulch. If possible, incorporate at least 90 days prior to planting. Deep incorporation and thorough mixing very important.	Agriculture
Best Management Practices (BMP) <i>(How the compost is applied and incorporated; effect on performance of product.)</i>	The BMP used by the buyer, user, or applicator will effect the performance of products and also the applications for any product. BMP's will also affect the risks regarding plant germination and vigor associated with the use of soil amendments and compost			
Incorporation Notes	Can be used as a high percentage of the soil profile. Incorporation not critical (top 4" recommended).	Should not be used as a high percentage of the soil profile (30% max). Incorporation in top 6" recommended.	Cannot be used as a high percentage of the soil profile (15% max). Incorporation in top 8" or more recommended.	Cannot be used as a high percentage of the soil profile. Incorporation in top 10" or more recommended.