



Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory The Pennsylvania State University University Park PA 16802 www.aasl.psu.edu

Analysis R	Report For:			Сору То:		
Wilbros Organic Recovery PO Box 1910 Toccoa GA 30577						
LAB ID:	SAMPLE ID:	REPORT DATE:	SAMPLE TYPE:	FEEDSTOCKS	COMPOSTING METHOD	COUNTY
C05353	Wilbros Nursery	10/25/2011	Finished Compost		Windrow	

# **COMPOST ANALYSIS REPORT**

Compost Test 3A

Analyte	Results	Results	
Amarytt	(As is basis)	(Dry weight b	asis)
рН	6.1		
Soluble Salts (1:5 w:w)	3.49 mmhos/cm		
Solids	69.9 %		
Moisture	30.1 %		•
Organic Matter	38.9 %	55.6	%
Total Nitrogen (N)	1.8 %	2.5	%
Organic Nitrogen <sup>1</sup>	1.7 %	2.5	%
Ammonium N (NH <sub>4</sub> -N)	500.2 mg/kg	715.6	mg/kg
	or 0.0500 <b>%</b>	or 0.0716	%
Carbon (C)	19.8 %	28.3	%
Carbon:Nitrogen (C:N) Ratio	11.10	11.10	
Phosphorus (as $P_2O_5$ ) <sup>2</sup>	1.75 %	2.50	%
Potassium (as K <sub>2</sub> O) <sup>2</sup>	0.25 %	0.36	%
Calcium (Ca)	1.12 %	1.60	%
Magnesium (Mg)	0.14 %	0.20	%
Particle size (< 9.5 mm)	97.34 %	-	
Fecal Coliform <sup>3</sup>	23 MPN per g	34	MPN per g

See comments on back of report .

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ To convert phosphorus (as  $P_{2}O_{5}$ ) into elemental phosphorus (P), divide by 2.29. To convert potassium (as  $K_{2}O$ ) into elemental potassium (K), divide by 1.20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Fecal Coliform subcontracted to Fairway Lab, Altoona, Pa

#### INTERPRETATION

pН

pH is a measure of active acidity in the feedstock or compost. The pH scale is 0 (acidic) to 14 (basic) with 7 being neutral. Most finished composts will have pH values in the range of 5.0 to 8.5. Ideal pH depends on compost use. A lower pH is preferred for certain ornamental plants while a neutral pH is suitable for most other applications. pH is not a measure of the total acidity or alkalinity and cannot be used to predict the effect of compost on soil pH.

Soluble Salts Soluble salts are determined by measuring electrical conductivity (EC) in a 1:5 (compost:water, weight ratio) slurry. EC is related to the total soluble salts dissolved in the slurry and is measured in units of millimhos/cm (mmhos/cm). Compost soluble salt levels typically range from 1 to 10 mmhos/cm. High salinity may be toxic to plants. Ideal soluble salt levels will depend on the end use of the compost. Final compost blends with soil or container media/potting mixes should be tested for soluble salts.

% Solids, % Moisutre

The ideal moisture content for composting will depend on the water holding capacity of the materials being composted. In general, high organic matter materials have a higher water holding capacity and a higher ideal moisture content. A typical starting compost mix will have an ideal % solids content of 35-55 % (65-45 % moisture). Finished compost should have a % solids content of 50-60 % (50-40 % moisture).

% Organic Matter

There is no ideal organic matter level for feedstocks or finished compost. Organic matter content will decrease during composting. The organic matter content (dry weight basis) of typical feedstocks and starting mixes will be greater than 60 % while that of finished compost will be in the range of 30-70 %. An organic matter content (dry weight basis) of 50-60 % is desirable for most compost uses.

Nitrogen: Total, Organic, Ammonium, and Nitrate Total nitrogen (N) includes all forms of nitrogen: organic N, ammonium N (NH<sub>4</sub>-N), and nitrate N (NO<sub>3</sub>-N). Total N will normally range from less than 1 % to around 5 % (dry weight basis) in most feedstocks and from 0.5 to 2.5 % (dry weight basis) in finished composts. NO<sub>3</sub>-N (an optional test) is generally present in only low concentrations in immature composts, although it may increase as the compost matures. NH<sub>4</sub>-N levels may be high during initial stages of the composting process, but decrease as maturity increases. Organic N is determined by subtracting the inorganic N forms, NH<sub>4</sub>-N and NO<sub>3</sub>-N, from total N. However, because NO<sub>3</sub>-N levels are generally very low, total nitrogen minus NH<sub>4</sub>-N provides a good estimate of organic N in most composts and is the value shown on the front of this report. In stable, finished composts, most of the N should be in the organic form. While NH<sub>4</sub>-N and NO<sub>3</sub>-N are immediately available to plants, organic N is only slowly available, approximately 10 to 20 % per year. However, mineralization or break-down of organic N into available inorganic forms depends on the C: N ratio (see below) as well as factors such as soil moisture and temperature.

Total Carbon Total carbon (C) is a direct measurement of all organic and inorganic carbon in the compost sample. Unless the sample has a high pH (> 8.3) or is known to contain carbonates, essentially all carbon will be in the organic form. Compost organic matter typically contains around 54 % organic carbon by weight. The carbon content of individual feedstocks may vary from this ratio.

Carbon: Nitrogen Ratio This is the ratio of total carbon (C) to total nitrogen (N) in the compost sample provided. C:N ratio may be used as an indicator of compost stability and N availability. Compost C:N ratio typically decreases during composting if the starting C:N ratio is > 25, but may increase if the starting C:N ratio is low (< 15) and N is lost during the composting process. Composts with high C:N ratios (> 30) will likely immobilize or tie-up N if applied to soil, while those with low C:N ratios (< 20) will mineralize or break-down organic N to inorganic (plant-available) N.

Phosphorus, Potassium Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are plant macronutrients. Values reported are for total amounts given in the oxide forms ( $P_2O_5$  and  $K_2O$ ). These results provide an indication of the nutrient value of the compost sample. However, plant availability of total phosphorus and potassium in compost has not yet been established.

Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium Balance When compost is applied on the basis of nitrogen (N), most composts will have an excess of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) relative to crop demand. These mineral elements and salts can accumulate to above optimum levels with repeated application. Growers using compost should regularly soil test to monitor P, K and salt accumulation and should consider using other nutrient sources or nitrogen fixing legumes in their crop rotation especially when P and K levels are above optimum.





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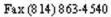
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# **COMPOST ANALYSIS REPORT**

EPA 503 Pollutants

Analyte	Results (As is Basis)	Results (Dry Weight Basis)	EPA SW 846 Method
rsenic (As)	2.5 mg/kg	3.6 mg/kg	3050B + 6010
dadmium (Cd)	0.7 mg/kg	0.9 mg/kg	3050B + 6010
Copper (Cu)	65.4 mg/kg	93.6 mg/kg	3050B + 6010
ead (Pb)	10.7 mg/kg	15.3 mg/kg	3050B + 6010
Mercury (Hg)	0.314 mg/kg	0.45 mg/kg	7473
Molybdenum (Mo)	2.0 mg/kg	2.9  mg/kg	3050B + 6010
lickel (Ni)	6.0 mg/kg	8.6  mg/kg	3050B + 6010
elenium (Se)	< 1.2 mg/kg	< 1.7 mg/kg	3050B + 6010
Zinc (Zn)	158.9 mg/kg	227.3 mg/kg	3050B + 6010









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	TEST PARAMETERS	
	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	
Γest Dates:	10/06/2011 to 10/13/2011	
Seed Type:	Cucumber-Marketmore 76 Variety	
Media Type: Control)	STA-Green Smart Soil Potting Mix	
Vermiculite:	STA-Green Vermiculite	
	TEST RESULTS	
Emergence: (% of control)	100.00	
Seedling Vigor: (% of control):	100.00	
	COMMENTS	

### **INTERPRETATION**

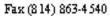
The bioassay test provides a screen for the presence of phytotoxins in compost based on seedling emergence and seedling vigor relative to a control. It provides an assessment of compost maturity although should not be used as a stand-alone indicator. The U.S. Compost Council Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost provides the following Maturity Indicator Ratings based on this test.

### Maturity Indicator Rating<sup>1</sup>

Test Parameter	Very Mature	Mature	Immature
Emergence % Seedling Vigor %	> 90 > 95	80-90 85-95	< 80 < 85

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Composts







P.5

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# RESPIROMETRY Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Evolution Rate

TEST RESULTS				
0.7 1.3				
	0.7			

#### **INTERPRETATION**

Respirometry (CO<sub>2</sub> Evolution) provides a measurement of the relative microbial activity in a compost and, hence can be used as an estimate of compost stability. The interpretive index below from the U.S. Compost Council Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost assumes optimal conditions for microbial activity are present including temperature, mositure and nutrients and that toxic components that would inhibit microbial respiration are absent.

Result*	Stability Rating	General Characteristics
< 2	Very Stable	Well cured Compost
	•	No continued decomposition
		No odors
		No potential for volatile fatty acid phytotoxicity and odor
2-8	Stable	Cured Compost
		Odor production not likely
		Limited potential for volatile fatty acid phytotoxicity and odor
		Minimal impact on soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics
8-15	Moderately	Uncured compost
	unstable,	Minimal odor production
	raw compost	Moderate to high potential for volatile fatty acid phytotoxicity
		Moderate potential for negative impact on soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics
15-40	Raw compost or	Uncured Compost
	raw organic products	Odor production likely
		High potential for volatile fatty acid phytotoxicity and odor
		High potential for negative impact on soil carbon and soil nitroge dynamics
> 40	Raw feedstocks,	Raw, extremely unstable material
	unstable material	Odor production expected
		Probably volatile fatty acid phytotoxicity with most materials
		Negative impact on soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics expected
		Generally not recommended for use as compost

<sup>\*</sup> Units in mg CO<sub>2</sub>-C/g organic matter/day