

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPOST USE

SHORT FORMAT

- Turf Establishment with Compost
 - Planting Bed Establishment with Compost
 - Compost as a Landscape Backfill Mix Component
 - Compost as a Landscape Mulch
 - Compost as a Soil Blanket for Erosion Control
 - Compost as a Filter Berm for Sediment Control
-
- Includes Seal of Testing Assurance Language

SPECIFICATION

TURF ESTABLISHMENT WITH COMPOST

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of incorporating compost within the root zone to improve soil quality and plant growth. This specification applies to all types of turf establishment methods including seeding, sprigging, sodding, and hydroseeding.

Materials:

Compost shall be a well decomposed, stable, weed free organic matter source. It shall be derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; source-separated or mixed solid waste. The product shall contain no substances toxic to plants and shall be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter. The compost will possess no objectionable odors and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,6}	Reported as (units of measure)	General Range
pH ²	pH units	6.0 - 8.5
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 10
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	30 – 65
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	98% pass through 3/4" screen or smaller
Stability ³ Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	< 8
Maturity ³ (Bioassay) Seed Emergence and Seedling Vigor	%, relative to positive control %, relative to positive control	Minimum 80% Minimum 80%
Physical Contaminants (inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1
Chemical Contaminants ⁴	mg/kg (ppm)	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels
Biological Contaminants ⁵ Select Pathogens Fecal Coliform Bacteria, or Salmonella	MPN per gram per dry weight MPN per 4 grams per dry weight	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels

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

² It should be noted that the pH and soluble salt content of the amended soil mix is more relevant to the establishment and growth of a particular plant, than is the pH or soluble salt content of a specific compost (soil conditioner) used to amend the soil. Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. Most ornamental plants and turf species can tolerate a soil/media soluble salt level of 2.5 dS/m and 4 dS/m, respectively.

Seeds, young seedlings and salt sensitive species often prefer soluble salt levels at half the afore mentioned levels. 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 existing soil conditions.

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 US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels = Arsenic 41ppm, Cadmium 39ppm, Copper 1,500ppm, Lead 300ppm, Mercury 17ppm, Molybdenum 75ppm, Nickel 420ppm, Selenium 100ppm, Zinc 2,800ppm.

⁵ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels = Salmonella <3 MPN/4grams of total solids or Fecal Coliform <1000 MPN/gram of total solids.

⁶ Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

Construction Requirements:

- Compost shall be uniformly applied over the entire area at an average depth of 1 to 2 inches
- Incorporate to a depth of 5 to 7 inches (for a 20% to 30% inclusion rate) using a rotary tiller or other appropriate equipment. Higher inclusion rates are necessary for upgrading marginal soils.
- Pre-plant fertilizer and pH adjusting agents (e.g., lime and sulfur) may be applied before incorporation, as necessary.
- Rake soil surface smooth prior to seeding, sprigging, sodding, or hydroseeding.
- The soil surface shall be reasonably free of large clods, roots, stones greater than 2 inches, and other material which will interfere with planting and subsequent site maintenance.
- Water thoroughly after seeding, sprigging, or sodding.
- Where necessary, topdress newly seeded and sprigged turf areas with a 1/4 inch layer of fine compost (3/8 inch screen, minus), then water to protect against hot, dry weather or drying winds.

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard or the ton at the point of loading.

Soil Analysis: Before any soil preparation procedures ensue, a soil analysis shall be completed by a reputable laboratory to determine any nutritional requirements, pH and organic matter adjustments necessary. Once determined, the soil shall be appropriately amended to a range suitable for the turf species to be established.

The landscape architect/designer shall specify the compost inclusion rate depending upon soil conditions and quality, plant tolerances, and manufacturer's recommendations. The use of stable, nutrient rich composts will reduce initial fertilizer requirements by the amount of available nutrients in the compost.

SPECIFICATION

PLANTING BED ESTABLISHMENT WITH COMPOST

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of incorporating compost within the root zone in order to improve soil quality and plant growth. This specification applies to all types of plantings including; trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous plants.

Materials:

Compost shall be a well decomposed, stable, weed free organic matter source. It shall be derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; source-separated or mixed solid waste. The product shall contain no substances toxic to plants and shall be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter. The compost will possess no objectionable odors and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived. For acid loving plants, only use a compost that has not received the addition of liming agents or ash by-products. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,6}	Reported as (units of measure)	General Range
pH ²	pH units	6.0 - 8.5
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 10
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	30 – 65
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	98% pass through 3/4" screen or smaller
Stability ³ Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	< 8
Maturity ³ (Bioassay) Seed Emergence and Seedling Vigor	%, relative to positive control %, relative to positive control	Minimum 80% Minimum 80%
Physical Contaminants (inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1
Chemical Contaminants ⁴	mg/kg (ppm)	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels
Biological Contaminants ⁵ Select Pathogens Fecal Coliform Bacteria, or Salmonella	MPN per gram per dry weight MPN per 4 grams per dry weight	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels

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

² It should be noted that the pH and soluble salt content of the amended soil mix is more relevant to the establishment and growth of a particular plant, than is the pH or soluble salt content of a specific compost (soil conditioner) used to amend the soil. Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance

rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. Most ornamental plants and turf species can tolerate a soil/media soluble salt level of 2.5 dS/m and 4 dS/m, respectively. Seeds, young seedlings and salt sensitive species often prefer soluble salt levels at half the afore mentioned levels. 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 existing soil conditions.

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 US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels = Arsenic 41ppm, Cadmium 39ppm, Copper 1,500ppm, Lead 300ppm, Mercury 17ppm, Molybdenum 75ppm, Nickel 420ppm, Selenium 100ppm, Zinc 2,800ppm.

⁵ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels = Salmonella <3 MPN/4grams of total solids or Fecal Coliform <1000 MPN/gram of total solids.

⁶ Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

Construction Requirements:

- Compost shall be uniformly applied over the planting area at an average depth of 1 to 2 inches.
- Incorporate uniformly to a depth of 6 to 8 inches using a rotary tiller or other appropriate equipment. Lower compost application rates may be necessary for salt sensitive crops or where composts possessing higher salt levels are used.
- Pre-plant fertilizer and pH adjusting agents (e.g., lime and sulfur) may be applied in conjunction with compost incorporation, as necessary.
- Rake soil surface smooth prior to planting.
- The soil surface shall be reasonably free of large clods, roots, stones greater than 2 inches, and other material which will interfere with planting and subsequent site maintenance.
- Water thoroughly after planting.

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard or the ton at the point of loading.

Soil Analysis: Before any soil preparation procedures ensue, a soil analysis shall be completed by a reputable laboratory to determine any nutritional requirements, pH and organic matter adjustments necessary. Once determined, the soil shall be appropriately amended to a range suitable for the turf species to be established.

The landscape architect/designer shall specify the compost inclusion rate depending upon soil conditions and quality, plant tolerances, and manufacturer's recommendations. The use of stable, nutrient rich composts will reduce initial fertilizer requirements by the amount of available nutrients in the compost.

SPECIFICATION

COMPOST AS A LANDSCAPE BACKFILL MIX COMPONENT

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of excavating a planting hole and blending compost with the excavated soil to improve soil quality and plant growth. This specification applies to all types of bare root, containerized, and balled and burlapped plant material.

Materials:

Compost shall be a well decomposed, stable, weed free organic matter source. It shall be derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; source-separated or mixed solid waste. The product shall contain no substances toxic to plants and shall be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter. The compost will possess no objectionable odors and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived. For acid loving plants, provide only compost that has not received the addition of liming agents or ash by-products. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council’s (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Composts containing available nutrients, primarily nitrogen, are preferred, while the use of unstable or immature compost is not approved. Care should be given when using composts possessing a basic pH (>7) near acid loving plants. A pH adjustment of the finished soil/compost mix may be necessary.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,6}	Reported as (units of measure)	General Range
pH ²	pH units	6.0 - 8.5
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 10
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	30 – 65
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	98% pass through 3/4” screen or smaller
Stability ³ Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	< 8
Maturity ³ (Bioassay) Seed Emergence and Seedling Vigor	%, relative to positive control %, relative to positive control	Minimum 80% Minimum 80%
Physical Contaminants (inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1
Chemical Contaminants ⁴	mg/kg (ppm)	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40

		CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels
Biological Contaminants ⁵		
Select Pathogens		
Fecal Coliform Bacteria, or	MPN per gram per dry weight	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels
Salmonella	MPN per 4 grams per dry weight	

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

² It should be noted that the pH and soluble salt content of the amended soil mix is more relevant to the establishment and growth of a particular plant, than is the pH or soluble salt content of a specific compost (soil conditioner) used to amend the soil. Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. Most ornamental plants and turf species can tolerate a soil/media soluble salt level of 2.5 dS/m and 4 dS/m, respectively. Seeds, young seedlings and salt sensitive species often prefer soluble salt levels at half the afore mentioned levels. 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 existing soil conditions.

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 US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels = Arsenic 41ppm, Cadmium 39ppm, Copper 1,500ppm, Lead 300ppm, Mercury 17ppm, Molybdenum 75ppm, Nickel 420ppm, Selenium 100ppm, Zinc 2,800ppm.

⁵ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels = Salmonella <3 MPN/4grams of total solids or Fecal Coliform <1000 MPN/gram of total solids.

⁶ Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

Construction Requirements:

- Excavate a planting hole slightly shallower and 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball or container.
- Set the root ball on firm soil so that the top of the root ball will sit slightly higher than the final grade.
- Uniformly blend compost and excavated soil at a 1 compost : 2 soil ratio.
- Backfill and firm the soil blend around the root ball within the planting hole.
- Water thoroughly during and after planting.

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard or the ton at the point of loading.

Soil Analysis: Before any soil preparation procedures ensue, a soil analysis shall be completed by a reputable laboratory to determine any nutritional requirements, pH and organic matter adjustments necessary. Once determined, the soil shall be appropriately amended to a range suitable for the turf species to be established.

The landscape architect/designer shall specify the compost inclusion rate depending upon soil conditions and quality, plant tolerances, and manufacturer's recommendations. The use of stable, nutrient rich composts will reduce initial fertilizer requirements by the amount of available nutrients in the compost.

SPECIFICATION

COMPOST AS A LANDSCAPE MULCH

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of applying compost to the soil surface after planting to help inhibit weed growth, conserve soil moisture, and reduce soil erosion.

Materials:

Compost mulch shall be a well decomposed, weed free organic matter source. It shall be derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; or source-separated waste. The product shall contain no substances toxic to plants and be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter. The compost will possess no objectionable odors and shall not resemble the raw material from which it was derived. For acid loving plants, only use a compost that has not received the addition of liming agents or ash by-products. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council’s (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,5}	Reported as (units of measure)	General Range
pH ²	pH units	5.5 – 9.0
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 10
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	25 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	> 30
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	99% pass through 3” screen, >25% passing 3/8” screen
Physical Contaminants (inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 0.1
Chemical Contaminants ³	mg/kg (ppm)	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels
Biological Contaminants ⁴ Select Pathogens Fecal Coliform Bacteria, or Salmonella	MPN per gram per dry weight MPN per 4 grams per dry weight	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels

¹ Recommended test methodologies are provided in Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost (TMECC, The US Composting Council)
² It should be noted that the pH and soluble salt content of the amended soil mix is more relevant to the establishment and growth of a particular plant, than is the pH or soluble salt content of a specific compost (soil conditioner) used to amend the soil. Each specific plant species requires a specific pH range. Each plant also has a salinity tolerance rating, and maximum tolerable quantities are known. Most ornamental plants and turf species can tolerate a soil/media soluble salt level of 2.5 dS/m and 4 dS/m, respectively. Seeds, young seedlings and salt sensitive species often prefer soluble salt levels at half the afore mentioned levels. 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 existing soil conditions.
³ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3 levels = Arsenic 41ppm, Cadmium 39ppm, Copper 1,500ppm, Lead 300ppm, Mercury 17ppm, Molybdenum 75ppm, Nickel 420ppm, Selenium 100ppm, Zinc 2,800ppm.
⁴ US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a) levels = Salmonella <3 MPN/4grams of total solids or Fecal Coliform <1000 MPN/gram of total solids.
⁵ Landscape architects and project (field) engineers may modify the allowable compost specification ranges based on specific field conditions and plant requirements.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

When using compost for mulching, specific products may be considered more physically or visually acceptable for a given planting area. A representative sample of compost must be submitted to the Landscape Architect/Designer prior to field use since aesthetic preferences are subjective. Coarser-textured compost mulches are more effective in reducing weed growth and preventing water and wind erosion.

Construction Requirements:

- Compost mulch shall be uniformly applied over the entire area at an average depth of 2 to 3 inches as soon as possible after weed removal and planting.
- Avoid placing mulch against the trunk or stem of any plant material.
- Water thoroughly before and after mulching to saturate the root zone and entire mulch layer.
- All stones, roots, or other debris shall be removed from the surface of the mulched area.

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard or the ton at the point of loading.

The landscape architect/designer shall specify the compost inclusion rate depending upon soil conditions and quality, plant tolerances, and manufacturer's recommendations. The use of stable, nutrient rich composts will reduce initial fertilizer requirements by the amount of available nutrients in the compost.

Generally, biosolids composts should not be applied at a depth greater than 2 inches, while most yard trimmings composts can be applied to a depth of 3 inches. Salt sensitive species typically prefer lower application rates.

SPECIFICATION

COMPOST AS A SOIL BLANKET FOR EROSION CONTROL

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of applying compost to a sloped soil surface to reduce erosion for long term stabilization and to enhance riparian buffer areas.

Materials:

Soil blanket media shall be a composted, weed free organic matter source derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; source-separated or mixed solid waste. Particle size shall be as described below in the product parameters table. The compost shall possess no objectionable odors, will be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter and will meet the product parameters outlined below. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,4}	Reported as (units of measure)	Blanket Media to be Vegetated	Blanket Media to be left Un-vegetated
pH ²	pH units	6.0 - 8.5	N/A
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 5	Maximum 5
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60	30 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	25 – 65	25-100
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" (75 mm), 100% passing • 1" (25mm), 90% to 100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 65% to 100%passing • 1/4" (6.4 mm), 0% to 75% passing • Maximum particle length of 6" (152mm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" (75 mm), 100% passing • 1" (25mm), 90% to 100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 65% to 100%passing • 1/4" (6.4 mm), 0% to 75% passing • Maximum particle length of 6" (152mm)
Stability ³ Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	< 8	N/A
Physical Contaminants (man-made inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1	< 1

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.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

Use only a well-composted product that contains no substances toxic to plants where planting; immediate grass, wildflower, legume seeding or ornamental planting. Very coarse composts may need to be avoided if the slope is to be landscaped or seeded, as it will make planting and crop establishment more difficult. Composts containing fibrous particles that range in size produce a more stable mat.

Construction Requirements:

Compost mulch shall be uniformly applied to a depth described below. Areas receiving greater precipitation, possessing a higher erosivity index, or which will remain unvegetated, will require greater application rates.

Annual Rainfall/Flow Rate	Total Precipitation & Rainfall Erosivity Index	Application Rate For <u>Vegetated*</u> Compost Surface Mulch	Application Rate For <u>Unvegetated</u> Compost Surface Mulch
Low	1-25", 20-90	1/2 - 3/4" (12.5 mm – 19 mm)	1" – 1 1/2" (25 mm – 37.5mm)
Average	26-50", 91-200	3/4 - 1" (19 mm – 25 mm)	1 1/2" – 2" (37 mm – 50 mm)
High	51" and above, 201 and above	1-2" (25 mm – 50 mm)	2-4" (50mm – 100mm)

*These lower application rates should only be used in conjunction with seeding, and for compost blankets applied during the prescribed planting season for the particular region.

Spread the compost uniformly on up to 1:2 slopes, then track (compact) the compost layer using a bulldozer or other appropriate equipment, if possible. Alternatively, apply compost using a pneumatic (blower) or slinger type spreader unit. Project compost directly at soil surface, thereby preventing water from moving between the soil-compost interface. Apply compost layer approximately 3 feet beyond the top of the slope or overlap it into existing vegetation. On highly unstable soils, use compost in conjunction with appropriate structural and diversion measures. Follow by seeding or ornamental planting if desired.

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by the cubic yard or the ton at the point of loading.

The Landscape Architect/Designer shall specify the compost application rate depending upon specific site (e.g., soil characteristics, existing vegetation) and climatic conditions, as well as particular project related requirements. The severity of slope grade, as well as slope length, will also influence compost application.

SPECIFICATION

COMPOST AS A FILTER BERM FOR SEDIMENT CONTROL

Section _____,

Description:

This work shall consist of constructing a raised berm of compost on a soil surface to contain soil erosion, control the movement of sediment off site, and to filter storm water.

Materials:

Filter berm media shall be a composted, weed free organic matter source derived from: agricultural, food, or industrial residuals; biosolids (treated sewage sludge); yard trimmings; source-separated or mixed solid waste. Particle size may vary widely. The compost shall possess no objectionable odors, will be reasonably free (< 1% by dry weight) of man-made foreign matter and will meet the product parameters outlined below. The product shall be certified through the U.S. Composting Council's (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program.

Product Parameters*:

Parameters ^{1,4}	Reported as (units of measure)	Filter Berm to be Vegetated	Filter Berm to be left Un-vegetated
pH ²	pH units	6.0 - 8.5	N/A
Soluble Salt Concentration ² (electrical conductivity)	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	Maximum 5	N/A
Moisture Content	%, wet weight basis	30 – 60	30 – 60
Organic Matter Content	%, dry weight basis	25 – 65	25 – 100
Particle Size	% passing a selected mesh size, dry weight basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" (75 mm), 100% passing • 1" (25mm), 90% to 100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 70% to 100% passing • 1/4" (6.4mm), 30% to 75% passing Maximum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • particle size length of 6" (152mm) (no more than 60% passing 1/4" (6.4 mm) in high rainfall/flow rate situations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" (75 mm), 100% passing • 1" (25mm), 90% to 100% passing • 3/4" (19mm), 70% to 100% passing • 1/4" (6.4mm), 30% to 75% passing Maximum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • particle size length of 6" (152mm) (no more than 50% passing 1/4" (6.4 mm) in high rainfall/flow rate situations)
Stability ³ Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate	mg CO ₂ -C per g OM per day	< 8	N/A
Physical Contaminants (man-made inerts)	%, dry weight basis	< 1	< 1

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.

*Before delivery of the compost, supplier must provide a copy of the lab analysis, performed by a STA Program certified lab, verifying that the compost meets the product parameters listed above. The lab analysis should not be more than 90 days old.

Verifying current participation in the STA Program can also be achieved by logging onto the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org.

Where seeding of the berm is planned, use only well composted product that contains no substances toxic to plants. Avoid coarse composts if the berm is to be seeded, as it will make establishment more difficult.

Construction Requirements:

Parallel to the base of the slope or other affected areas, construct a berm of compost to the size specifications outlined in the table below.

Annual Rainfall/Flow Rate	Total Precipitation & Rainfall Erosivity Index	Dimensions for the Compost Filter Berm (height x width)
Low	1-25", 20-90	1' x 2' - 1.5' x 3' (30 cm x 60 cm - 45 cm x 90 cm)
Average	26-50", 91-200	1' x 2' - 1.5' x 3' (30 cm x 60 cm - 45 cm x 90 cm)
High	51" and above, 201 and above	1.5' x 3' - 2' x 4' (45 cm x 90 cm - 60cm x 120 cm)

In extreme conditions and where specified by the Landscape Architect/Designer, a second berm shall be constructed at the top of the slope or silt fencing shall be installed in conjunction with the compost berm. Where the berm deteriorates, it shall be reconstructed. Do not use filter berms in any runoff channels (concentrated flows).

Method of Measurement:

Compost will be measured by cubic yard at the point of loading.

The Landscape Architect/Designer shall specify the berm dimensions depending upon specific site (e.g., soil characteristics, existing vegetation) and climatic conditions, as well as particular project related requirements. The severity of slope grade, as well as slope length, will also influence compost application.

