



Appendix II Finished Compost Quality



Parameter	Test Results
pH	
Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio	
Particle Size/Texture (inch)+	
Soluble Salts (ms/cm)	
Sodium Base Saturation (%Na)	
Major Nutrients	
Available Potassium (%K)	
Available Magnesium (%Mg)	
Available Calcium (%Ca)	

+ Majority of sample passes through this sieve size

Reference Compost Quality Parameters for CQA

Use	pH	C:N	Moisture	Particle Size	Soluble Salts	%Na
Remediation	5.8-8.5	10-40	NA	<2 in	<20	<3%
Soil Amendment	5.8-8.5	10-30	NA	<1/2 in	<6	<2%
Landscaping	5.8-8.5	12-22	<50%	<1/2 in	<5	<2%
Planting Media	5.5-7.8	12-22	<50%	<1/2 in	<4	<2%
Turf Establishment &	5.5-7.8	12-22	<50%	<3/8 in	<3	<1%
Greenhouse	6-7	12-22	<25%	<1/4 in	<2	<0.5%
Greenhouse Establishment	6-7	12-22	<30%	<1/2 in	2-3.5	<0.5%
Field Nursery	5.8-8	10-30	<50%	<1/2 in	<3.5	<1%
Agricultural Soil Amendments	6-8	10-30	<50%	<1/2 in	<20	<1%
Potting Soil	5.5-7.2	12-22	<50%	<1/4 in	<2	<1%

Unrestricted Use: Category A - Compost that can be used in any application, such as agricultural lands, residential gardens, horticultural operations, the nursery industry, and other businesses. Category A criteria for trace elements are achievable using best source separated MSW feedstock, municipal biosolids, pulp and paper mill biosolids, or manure.

Restricted Use: Category B - Compost that has a restricted use because of the presence of sharp foreign matter or higher trace element content. Category B compost may require additional control when deemed necessary by a province or territory.

Please note:

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Note: For a compost to meet the unrestricted use category, it must meet the unrestricted (Category A) requirements for all trace elements and sharp foreign matter. If the compost fails one criterion of the guideline for unrestricted use but meets the criteria for restricted (Category B) use, then it is classified as a Category B product. Products that do not meet the criteria for either Category A or B must be used or disposed of appropriately.