

Compost Sample Submission Form

See enclosed sheet for sampling information and instructions.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____	Send additional copy of analysis to: Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____
Sample Identification _____ Date Sampled _____ Time Sampled _____ Sampled by _____ (initials)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard copy report required: <i>If email addresses are listed, the lab will automatically email all lab results. Check this box if you require a hard copy lab report.</i>

Analysis Request

Please submit payment with your sample. Make checks payable to *The Pennsylvania State University*.

Compost Test Package*	\$ _____
Optional/Additional Tests*	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Total Cost	\$ _____

Report Units

Compost analysis results are reported on a weight basis. Results will also be reported on a volume basis (lb/yd³) if a bulk density analysis is requested (see listing under "Optional Tests" on last page) or if you provide us with the bulk density for the compost submitted. If you would like results reported on a volume basis and are not requesting a laboratory bulk density test, please provide the bulk density of your sample here:

Producer-determined bulk density (lb/yd³): _____

(Note: The procedure for determining bulk density on-site is provided on the other side of this form.)

*See other side for test packages, optional tests, and sample size required.

Sample Information

Sample submitted is:	If Sample Is Compost		Intended use of this compost <i>(check all that apply):</i>
	Check feedstocks utilized:	Check composting method used:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Feedstock <i>(list type in next column)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Unfinished compost <i>Age in weeks:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Straw <input type="checkbox"/> Manure <input type="checkbox"/> Food waste <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage sludge <input type="checkbox"/> Woody material <i>(wood chips, saw dust, etc.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Spent mushroom substrate <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Windrow, turning frequency: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape mulch <input type="checkbox"/> Potting media <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery bed amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Home garden amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Turf topdressing/establishment <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural soil amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Finished compost <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Static pile <input type="checkbox"/> Forced aeration <input type="checkbox"/> Passive aeration <input type="checkbox"/> In vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Vermicomposting <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard bin <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Additional information: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Windrow, turning frequency: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape mulch <input type="checkbox"/> Potting media <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery bed amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Home garden amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Turf topdressing/establishment <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural soil amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Chain of Custody

Relinquished by:	Date:	Time:	Received by:	Date:	Time:
Relinquished by:	Date:	Time:	Received by:	Date:	Time:
Relinquished by:	Date:	Time:	Received by:	Date:	Time:

Sample Receipt (lab use only)

# of containers:	Sample cooled or on ice?	Temp °C:	Container(s) in good condition?	Ice melted: Y or N
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



PennState Extension

Compost Test Packages

Basic Compost Tests

Compost Test 1A	Total solids, organic matter, pH, soluble salts, total nitrogen, carbon, C:N ratio	\$40
Compost Test 1B	Compost Test 1A plus ammonium nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium	\$55
Compost Test 1C	Compost Test 1A plus ammonium nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, copper, iron, manganese, sodium, sulfur, and zinc	\$75

Sample size required for Compost Tests 1A, 1B, or 1C: approximately 1 quart

Basic Compost Test Plus Pollutants

Compost Test 2A	Total solids, organic matter, pH, soluble salts, total nitrogen, total carbon, C:N ratio, ammonium nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, manganese, sodium, sulfur, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc	\$270
Compost Test 2B	Compost Test 2A plus PCBs (<i>Note: If compost contains sewage sludge and is for land application to meet EPA 503 regulations, Compost Test 2B is recommended.</i>)	\$350

Sample size required for Compost Tests 2A or 2B: approximately 1 quart

Compost Tests for U.S. Compost Council's Seal of Testing Approval Program

Compost Test 3A	Total solids, organic matter, pH, soluble salts, total nitrogen, total carbon, C:N ratio, ammonium nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, zinc, particle size (< 9.5 mm), respirometry test, biological assay, fecal coliform <i>(Note: for fecal coliform test, sample must be shipped on ice by overnight mail and received by the laboratory no later than 11:30 a.m. on Thursday of any given week.)</i>	\$350
Compost Test 3A— no fecal coliform	Same as Compost Test 3A but fecal coliform not included <i>(Note: sample does not need to be shipped on ice.)</i>	\$340
Compost Test 3B	Compost Test 3A <i>without</i> EPA 503 pollutants (arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc) and <i>without</i> fecal coliform	\$200

Sample size required for Compost Test 3A or 3B: approximately 1 gallon

Optional Tests

Bulk Density..... \$12 <i>(2-quart sample size required)</i>	Biological Assay (Seedling Emergence and Relative Growth)..... \$75 <i>(1-quart sample size required)</i>
Particle Size (2 in., 1 in., 5/8 in., 3/8 in., 1/8 in. sieves)..... \$45 <i>(1-quart sample size required)</i>	Nitrate Nitrogen \$15 <i>(1-pint sample size required)</i>
Respirometry (CO ₂ Evolution)..... \$100 <i>(1-pint sample size required)</i>	Water Extractable P (WEP, P Source Coefficient) \$27 <i>(1-pint sample size required)</i> <i>If also submitted for test package, WEP cost is \$15.</i>

Additional individual tests are available. Please visit the laboratory website or contact the lab for more information.

Bulk Density Procedure for On-Site Determination

Materials:

Sampling shovel, 5-gallon bucket, scale (common bathroom scale is acceptable)

Procedure:

Calculation:

1. Fill 5-gallon bucket half full, taking samples from various depths within pile.
2. Drop bucket 10 times from height of 6 inches.
3. Fill remaining portion of bucket approximately half full and repeat dropping process.
4. Fill bucket to brim one more time. Do not drop.

1. Weigh bucket and compost and record weight: _____ lb
2. Subtract 2 pounds from weight of bucket and compost to obtain net sample weight: _____ lb
3. Multiply net sample weight by 40 to convert to pounds per cubic yard: _____ lb/yd³
4. Record this number on the front of this form.

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