



Analysis Report For:				Copy To:		
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LAB ID	SAMPLE ID	REPORT DATE	SAMPLE TYPE	FEEDSTOCKS	COMPOSTING METHOD	COUNTY
C07545	1:02 System	12/11/2014	Finished Compost		Static Pile-Forced aeration	MD- -----

**COMPOST ANALYSIS REPORT**

*Compost Test 1A*

Analyte	Results (As is basis)	Results (Dry weight basis)
pH	7.7	—
Soluble Salts (1:5 w:w)	2.83 mmhos/cm	—
Solids	39.7 %	—
Moisture	60.3 %	—
Organic Matter	16.83 %	42.37 %
Total Nitrogen	0.558 %	1.4 %
Carbon	10.866 %	27.358 %
Carbon:Nitrogen Ratio	19.5	19.50

## INTERPRETATION

<b>pH</b>	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.
<b>Soluble Salts</b>	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.
<b>% Solids, % Moisture</b>	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).
<b>% Organic Matter</b>	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.
<b>Total Nitrogen</b>	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.
<b>Total Carbon</b>	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.
<b>Carbon: Nitrogen Ratio</b>	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.