Physical Characteristics and Maturity Index of 5 Compost Samples

	Woodchip Plenum	Vertical Pipes	Static Aerated	Control Pile 1	Control Pile 2
Weight of 5 gallons	12.83 lbs	12.79 lbs	9.43 lbs	12.60 lbs	20.60 lbs
Not passing through the screen	11.43 lbs	10.00 lbs	8.44 lbs	10.25 lbs	13.16 lbs
Passing thru 1/4" screen "fines"	1.26 lbs	2.66 lbs	1.15 lbs	2.25 lbs	7.17 lbs
Percent fines	9.8%	20.7%	12.1%	17.8%	34.8%
Pounds per cubic yard	509.4 lbs/cu yd	507.8 lbs/cu yd	374.4 lbs/cu yd	500.2 lbs/cu yd	817.8 lbs/cu yd
Solvita Maturity Index	6	6	7	7	7

(For comparison a sample of 2 year old compost from a stockpile is 945.3 lbs/cu yd and 76.7% fines)

Solvita tests were performed on each of the 5 samples that the physical tests were run on. A measured of volume of sifted compost is added to a jar with 2 test squares and sealed with an airtight top. One square will measure CO2, or respiration as the amount of oxygen consumed. The other square measures the NH3 or the amount of ammonia still being given off by the organic material in the sample. After a specific amount of time the color change on the test squares is compared to a chart to determine a number value of CO2 and NH3. From another chart provided with the test kit, a combination of the two scores provides a Maturity Index number, or how well cured (or the completeness of decomposition) of the sample on a scale of 1 to 8. From the test handbook, "A Solvita maturity index of 6 and above is commonly recognized as suitable maturity for official uses"