



COCC COMPOST CLASSIFICATION CHART



**STA Certified™
COMPOST**
A program of the US Composting Council

	Class I USCC Certified STA Compost	CLASS II Fully composted, stable, mature Compost
Minimum Manufacturing, Production, and Analytical Requirements	Compost to be verified by Manufacturer as to having been manufactured in compliance with all local and state regulatory standards, to include required operational permitting as required by USCC Certified STA Contract. Producer shall supply a current STA Membership Verification and a STA Compost Analytical Data Sheet (CTDS) as requested by specifier.	
Basis of Testing Protocol	Test Methods for the Evaluation of Compost and Composting (TMECC).	
Variations in Test Results	Minor variations in standards and testing results to be justified in writing by the compost manufacturer and approved by specifier	
Minimum Stability Indicator (Respirometry)	Stable to Very Stable	Stable
Stability - mg CO₂-C per g OM per day	< 5	< 8
Maturity Indicator Expressed as Ammonia N / Nitrate N Ratio	< 4	< 6
Maturity Indicator Expressed as Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio	< 12	< 18
Maturity Indicator Expressed as Percentage of Germination / Vigor – Cucumber Bioassay @ 1:1 (compost vermiculite blend)	80+ / 80+	N/A - due to normally higher nutrient and or sodium/chloride levels contained in Class II Manure based compost
pH – Acceptable Range (1:5 by weight) - TMECC	5.0 - 8.4	5.0 – 9.0
Soluble Salts – Acceptable Range (1:5 by weight) - TMECC	Maximum of 5	Maximum of 15
Metals	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.13, Tables 1 & 3 levels	
Pathogens – Verification of Regulatory Compliance to be available upon request.	Meet or exceed US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a) levels – Salmonella or Fecal Coliform	
Bulk Density; % Inorganics; % Moisture; % Organic Matter, Particle Size Distribution, Primary, Secondary Nutrients; Trace Elements.	Compost Producer is Required to supply a current STA Compost Technical Data Sheet (CTDS)/Analytical to include these items at a minimum.	
Application Applications or uses noted are intended for general consideration. The actual use or application is subjective depending on the receiving soil characteristics, volume of compost applied, and the method and percentage of incorporation.	Certified – Stable – and regulatory compliant compost provides a wide plethora of benefits to soil and plant health, water conservation, and the environment. Uses include general soil amending related to Horticultural, Nursery, Container Mixes, Turf, Sod, Seed Bed Preparation, Raised Garden, Vegetable Gardens, Top Soil Blends, Backfill, and Erosion Control. Information related to how much compost to use should be provided by the compost manufacturer.	
Best Management Practices (BMP) How the compost is applied and incorporated; effect on performance of product	The BMP used by the buyer, user, or applicator will effect the performance of products and also the applications for any product. BMP's will also affect the risks regarding plant germination and vigor associated with the use of soil amendments and compost.	
Incorporation Notes	Can be used as a high percentage (50%) of the soil profile. Incorporation not critical (top 4" recommended).	Should not be used as a high percentage of the soil profile (30% max). Incorporation in top 6" recommended.

*There is no implied warranty or product performance guarantee associated with this Classification System
Applicable to Certified Compost Products as defined by the United States Composting Council
STA Program and the testing requirements associated with that program.
See <http://compostingcouncil.org/seal-of-testing-assurance/> for additional details.

