

**Compost Guidelines and Specifications**

Note that there may be additional parameters specified by the various organizations that are not included in this table.

| parameter           | Density   | OM | C:N | total N | pH | Salts    | Maturity* |
|---------------------|-----------|----|-----|---------|----|----------|-----------|
| unit of measurement | lbs/cu ft | %  | -   | %       | -  | mmhos/cm | -         |

**Container Mix/Potting Soil**

|             |       |       |       |         |         |         |        |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Rodale      | 12-43 | 30-80 | 20-50 | 0.5-2.0 | 5.5-7   | 0.5-3.0 | 7-8    |
| M&S Council | -     | -     | -     | -       | 4.5-7.5 | 0.0-5.5 | -      |
| USCC-FGC    | 27-37 | 50-60 | -     | -       | 5.5-8.0 | ≤3      | ≥7, HS |

**Topsoil Blend**

|          |       |       |       |         |         |    |               |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|----|---------------|
| Rodale   | 45-60 | 8-20  | 10-20 | 0.4-1.0 | 5.5-7.5 | -  | 7-8           |
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | -     | -       | 5.5-8.0 | ≤6 | 5,MS - ≥7, HS |

**NYSDOT Specifications**

|               |   |      |   |   |         |    |   |
|---------------|---|------|---|---|---------|----|---|
| NYSDOT Values | - | >30% | - | - | 6.0-8.0 | <4 | - |
|---------------|---|------|---|---|---------|----|---|

**Veg crops**

|          |       |       |   |   |         |   |              |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|---|--------------|
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.0-8.0 | - | 6,S - ≥7, HS |
| NRAES    | 30-40 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.5-8.0 | - | -            |

**Erosion Control**

|          |       |       |   |   |         |    |              |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.5-8.0 | ≤6 | 6,S - ≥7, HS |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|

**Nursery Beds**

|          |       |       |   |   |         |      |              |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|------|--------------|
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.5-8.0 | <2.5 | 6,S - ≥7, HS |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|------|--------------|

**Turf Establishment**

|          |       |       |   |   |         |    |              |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.5-8.0 | ≤3 | 6,S - ≥7, HS |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|

**Backfill for Trees & Shrubs**

|          |       |       |   |   |         |    |              |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|
| USCC-FGC | 27-37 | 50-60 | - | - | 5.5-8.0 | ≤3 | 6,S - ≥7, HS |
|----------|-------|-------|---|---|---------|----|--------------|

**General/Other**

|                          |       |       |     |     |         |    |      |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|---------|----|------|
| USEPA Biosolids - A/EQ   | -     | -     | -   | -   | -       | -  | -    |
| NYSDEC Biosolids Compost | -     | -     | -   | -   | -       | -  | -    |
| BNQ, Type AA & A         | -     | -     | <25 | -   | -       | -  | -    |
| BNQ, Type B              | -     | -     | -   | -   | -       | -  | -    |
| ECO- no sewage sludge    | -     | >20   | -   | <2% | -       | -  | -    |
| USCC-FGC                 | 27-37 | 50-60 | -   | >1% | 6.0-7.5 | <5 | S-HS |

## Appendix H

| parameter<br>unit of measurement       | <b>solids</b><br>% | <b>Cu</b><br>ppm | <b>Fe</b><br>ppm | <b>Zn</b><br>ppm | <b>As</b><br>ppm | <b>Cd</b><br>ppm |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Container Mix/Potting Soil</b>      |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Rodale                                 | 15-65              | <350             | <12000           | 100-2800         | -                | -                |
| M&S Council                            | -                  | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>Topsoil Blend</b>                   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Rodale                                 | 15-65              | <1500            | 500-12000        | <2800            | -                | -                |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>NYSDOT Specifications</b>           |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| NYS DOT Values                         | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <10              |
| <b>Veg crops</b>                       |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| NRAES                                  | 55-60              | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>Erosion Control</b>                 |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>Nursery Beds</b>                    |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>Turf Establishment</b>              |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>Backfill for Trees &amp; Shrubs</b> |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                  | <1500            | -                | <2800            | <41              | <39              |
| <b>General/Other</b>                   |                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| USEPA Biosolids - A/EQ                 | -                  | 1500             | -                | 2800             | <41              | <39              |
| NYSDEC Biosolids Compost               | -                  | 1500             | -                | 2500             | 41               | 10               |
| BNQ, Type AA & A                       | -                  | 100              | -                | 500              | 13               | 3                |
| BNQ, Type B                            | -                  | 757              | -                | 1850             | 75               | 20               |
| ECO- no sewage sludge                  | >25                | 100              | -                | 300              | 10               | 1                |
| USCC-FGC                               | 50-60              | 1500             | -                | 2800             | 41               | 39               |

## Appendix H

| parameter<br>unit of measurement       | <b>Cr</b><br><i>ppm</i> | <b>Hg</b><br><i>ppm</i> | <b>Mn</b><br><i>ppm</i> | <b>Mo</b><br><i>ppm</i> | <b>Ni</b><br><i>ppm</i> | <b>Pb</b><br><i>ppm</i> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Container Mix/Potting Soil</b>      |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Rodale                                 | -                       | -                       | <1000                   | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| M&S Council                            | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>Topsoil Blend</b>                   |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Rodale                                 | 100                     | 0.5                     | 100-1000                | 10                      | 50                      | 150                     |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>NYSDOT Specifications</b>           |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| NYSDOT Values                          | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| <b>Veg crops</b>                       |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| NRAES                                  | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>Erosion Control</b>                 |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>Nursery Beds</b>                    |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>Turf Establishment</b>              |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       | -                       |
| <b>Backfill for Trees &amp; Shrubs</b> |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| <b>General/Other</b>                   |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>USEPA Biosolids - A/EQ</i>          | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |
| NYSDEC Biosolids Compost               | 1000                    | 10                      | -                       | 40                      | 200                     | 300                     |
| BNQ, Type AA & A                       | 210                     | 0.8                     | -                       | 5                       | 62                      | 150                     |
| BNQ, Type B                            | 1060                    | 5                       | -                       | 20                      | 180                     | 500                     |
| ECO- no sewage sludge                  | 100                     | 1                       | -                       | 2                       | 50                      | 100                     |
| USCC-FGC                               | -                       | 17                      | -                       | -                       | 420                     | 300                     |

## Appendix H

|                                        | parameter<br>unit of measurement | Se<br>ppm | Part. Size<br>- | Foreign Mat<br>-      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Container Mix/Potting Soil</b>      |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| Rodale                                 |                                  | -         | -               | -                     |
| M&S Council                            |                                  | -         | -               | -                     |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1/2"           | -                     |
| <b>Topsoil Blend</b>                   |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| Rodale                                 |                                  | 25        | -               | -                     |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | -                     |
| <b>NYSDOT Specifications</b>           |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| NYSDOT Values                          |                                  | -         | <0.5-1"         | <1%                   |
| <b>Veg crops</b>                       |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | -                     |
| NRAES                                  |                                  | 100       | -               | -                     |
| <b>Erosion Control</b>                 |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | -                     |
| <b>Nursery Beds</b>                    |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | -                     |
| <b>Turf Establishment</b>              |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | -         | <3/8"           | -                     |
| <b>Backfill for Trees &amp; Shrubs</b> |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | <1"                   |
| <b>General/Other</b>                   |                                  |           |                 |                       |
| USEPA Biosolids - A/EQ                 |                                  | 100       | -               | -                     |
| NYSDEC Biosolids Compost               |                                  | 100       | <10mm           | <2%                   |
| BNQ, Type AA & A                       |                                  | 2         | <12.5mm         | AA <0.01%, A<br><0.5% |
| BNQ, Type B                            |                                  | 14        | <25mm           | <1.5%                 |
| ECO- no sewage sludge                  |                                  | 1.5       | -               | -                     |
| USCC-FGC                               |                                  | 100       | <1"             | -                     |

\*MS=Moderately Stable, S=Stable, HS=Highly Stable; Solvita 8=highly mature, 7= well matured, 6=curing, 5=ready for curing, <5=active composting

**Sources:**

M&S=Mulch and Soil Council, accessed at [www.nbspa.org/consumer/soilnomenclature.html](http://www.nbspa.org/consumer/soilnomenclature.html), 1/14/03  
Rodale=Rodale Organic Gardening Compost Quality Seal, specifications provided by WERL, 12/02  
USCC-FGC= US Composting Council Field Guide to Compost Use, 2001  
NYSDOT Values = US Composting Council Compost Use on State Highway Applications, 2001  
NRAES= Field Guide to On-Farm Composting, 1992  
USEPA=40CFRpart503 rules for sewage sludges  
NYSDEC=Part 360 Rules for composting  
BNQ= Bureau de normalisation du Quebec, voluntary industry standards, accessed at [www.compost.org/standard.html](http://www.compost.org/standard.html), 1/15/03  
ECO=requirements for earning the European Community Eco-label for soil improver, accessed at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/producers/pg\\_soilimprovers.htm#revisedcriteria](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/producers/pg_soilimprovers.htm#revisedcriteria), 1/15/03