

How Do You Know It's Good Compost?

Compost Technical Data Sheets (Nov. 2010)

Compost products vary widely based on the materials they're made from and the processes used to compost them.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rates Rancho Las Virgenes (RLV) Community Compost with the highest possible quality rating:

Class A (EQ) = Exceptional Quality

This means there are no restrictions on how much can be applied as long as the compost meets the plant's needs.

RLV Community Compost is a very consistent product due to its processing. To validate this, RLV Community Compost is enrolled in The U.S. Composting Council's rigorous Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program which requires routine analytical testing to ensure conformance with standards.

Typical "per person" annual contribution:

sewage = 43,560 gallons
converts to recycled water = 43,100 gallons
unprocessed biosolids = 366 gallons
converts to compost = 4.25 cubic feet
(3 bags of nitro humus)



The STA Program was developed through EPA funding and is supported by the US Department of Agriculture

Information and specifications:
www.compostingcouncil.org



www.LYMWD.com





US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

Seal of Testing Assurance

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Brad Glassman
731 Malibu Canyon Road
Calabasas
CA 91302 (818) 251-2333

Date Sampled/Received: 02 Nov. 10 / 03 Nov. 10

Product Identification Compost
Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6

COMPOST TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

LABORATORY: Soil Control Lab; 42 Hangar Way; Watsonville, CA 95076 tel: 831.724.5422 fax: 831.724.3188

<i>Compost Parameters</i>	<i>Reported as (units of measure)</i>	<i>Test Results</i>	<i>Test Results</i>
Plant Nutrients:	% , weight basis	Not reported	Not reported
Moisture Content	% , wet weight basis	28.1	
Organic Matter Content	% , dry weight basis	89.7	
pH	units	7.35	
Soluble Salts <i>(electrical conductivity EC₅)</i>	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	5.0	
Particle Size or Sieve Size	maxium aggregate size, inches	0.38	
<i>Stability Indicator (respirometry)</i>		<i>Stability Rating:</i>	
CO ₂ Evolution	mg CO ₂ -C/g OM/day	2.4	Stable
	mg CO ₂ -C/g TS/day	2.1	
<i>Maturity Indicator (bioassay)</i>			
Percent Emergence	average % of control	100.0	
Relative Seedling Vigor	average % of control	100.0	
Select Pathogens	PASS/FAIL: per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a)	Pass	<i>Fecal coliform</i>
		Pass	<i>Salmonella</i>
Trace Metals	PASS/FAIL: per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3.	Pass	<i>As,Cd,Cr,Cu,Pb,Hg</i> <i>Mo,Ni,Se,Zn</i>

Participants in the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program have shown the commitment to test their compost products on a prescribed basis and provide this data, along with compost end use instructions, as a means to better serve the needs of their compost customers.

Laboratory Group: Nov.10 A Laboratory Number: 0110084-1/1

Analyst: Assaf Sadeh

www.compostlab.com



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Seal of Testing Assurance

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<i>Compost Parameters</i>	<i>Reported as (units of measure)</i>	<i>Test Results</i>	<i>Test Results</i>
Plant Nutrients:	% , weight basis	% , wet weight basis	% , dry weight basis
Nitrogen	Total N	1.1	1.5
Phosphorus	P ₂ O ₅	1.1	1.6
Potassium	K ₂ O	0.10	0.14
Calcium	Ca	0.63	0.87
Magnesium	Mg	0.11	0.15
Moisture Content	% , wet weight basis	28.1	
Organic Matter Content	% , dry weight basis	89.7	
pH	units	7.35	
Soluble Salts <i>(electrical conductivity EC₅)</i>	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	5.0	
Particle Size or Sieve Size	% under 9.5 mm, dw basis	100.0	
<i>Stability Indicator (respirometry)</i>		<i>Stability Rating:</i>	
CO ₂ Evolution	mg CO ₂ -C/g OM/day	2.4	Stable
	mg CO ₂ -C/g TS/day	2.1	
<i>Maturity Indicator (bioassay)</i>			
Percent Emergence	average % of control	100.0	
Relative Seedling Vigor	average % of control	100.0	
Select Pathogens	PASS/FAIL: per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a)	Pass	<i>Fecal coliform</i>
		Pass	<i>Salmonella</i>
Trace Metals	PASS/FAIL: per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3.	Pass	<i>As,Cd,Cr,Cu,Pb,Hg</i> <i>Mo,Ni,Se,Zn</i>

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Analyst: Assaf Sadeh

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US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

Seal of Testing Assurance

Caltrans

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Brad Glassman

731 Malibu Canyon Road

Calabasas CA 91302

(818) 251-2333

Product Identification:

Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6

Date Sampled/Received: 02 Nov. 10 / 03 Nov. 10

COMPOST TECHNICAL DATA SHEET for Caltrans

LABORATORY: Soil Control Lab, 42 Hangar Way, Watsonville, CA 95076 tel (831) 724-5422 fax (831) 724-3188 www.compostlab.com

<i>Compost Parameters</i>	<i>Test Results</i>	<i>Reported as (units of measure)</i>	<i>TMECC Test Method</i>
pH	7.35	Unitless	04.11-A 1:5 Slurry pH
Soluble Salts (electrical conductivity)	5.0	dS/m (mmhos/cm)	04.10-A 1:5 Slurry Method Mass Basis
Moisture content	28.1	%, wet weight basis	03.09-A - Total Solids and Moisture
Organic Matter Content	89.7	%, dry weight basis	05.07-A Loss-on-Ignition Organic Matter Method (LOI)
Maturity Indicator (bioassay) Percent Emergence	100.0	average % of control	05.05-A Germination and vigor
Relative Seedling Vigor	100.0	average % of control	
Stability Indicator	2.4	mg CO ₂ -C/g OM/day	05.08-B Carbon Dioxide Evolution Rate
Particle Size	100.0	%, dry weight passing through 9.5 mm	02.02-B Sample Sieving for Aggregate Size Classification
Pathogens	Pass	PASS/FAIL: Per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a)	07.01-B Fecal coliforms
Pathogens	Pass	PASS/FAIL: Per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a)	07.02 Salmonella
Physical Contaminants	None Detected	%, dry weight basis	02.02-C - Man-Made Inerts Total content
Physical Contaminants	None Detected	%, dry weight basis	02.02-C - Man-Made Inerts Sharps content
Heavy Metals Content	Pass	PASS/FAIL: Per US EPA Class A 40 CFR 503.13, tables 1 and 3.	04.06-Heavy Metals standard, and Hazardous Elements

Participants in the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program have shown the commitment to test their compost products on a prescribed basis and provide this data, along with compost end use instructions, as a means to better serve the needs of their compost customers.

For additional information pertaining to compost use, the specific compost parameters tested for within the Seal of Testing assurance Program, or the program in general, log on to the US Composting Council's TMECC web-site at <http://www.tmecc.org>.

This compost product has been sampled and tested as required by the Seal of Testing assurance Program on the United States Composting Council (USCC), using certain methods from the "Test Methods for the Examination of Compost and Composting" manual. Test results are available upon request by contacting the compost producer (address at top of page). The USCC makes no warranties regarding this product or its content, quality, or suitability for any particular use.

Laboratory Group: Nov.10 A Laboratory Number: 0110084-1/1

Analyst: Assaf Sadeh

www.compostlab.com


SOIL CONTROL LAB

42 HANGAR WAY
WATSONVILLE
CALIFORNIA
95076
USA

Account #: 0110084-1/1-5114
Group: Nov.10 A #10
Reporting Date: November 18, 2010

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
731 Malibu Canyon Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
Attn: Brad Glassman

Date Received: 03 Nov. 10
Sample Identification: Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6
Sample ID #: 0110084 - 1/1

Nutrients	Dry wt.	As Rcvd.	units	Stability Indicator:	Biologically	
Total Nitrogen:	1.5	1.1	%	CO2 Evolution	Respirometry Available C	
Ammonia (NH ₄ -N):	4700	3400	mg/kg	mg CO ₂ -C/g OM/day	2.4 2.7	
Nitrate (NO ₃ -N):	31	22	mg/kg	mg CO ₂ -C/g TS/day	2.1 2.4	
Org. Nitrogen (Org.-N):	1.0	0.72	%	Stability Rating	stable stable	
Phosphorus (as P ₂ O ₅):	1.6	1.1	%			
Phosphorus (P):	6900	4900	mg/kg			
Potassium (as K ₂ O):	0.14	0.10	%	Maturity Indicator: Cucumber Bioassay		
Potassium (K):	1200	840	mg/kg	Compost:Vermiculite(v:v)	1:1 1:3	
Calcium (Ca):	0.87	0.63	%	Emergence (%)	100 100	
Magnesium (Mg):	0.15	0.11	%	Seedling Vigor (%)	100 100	
Sulfate (SO ₄ -S):	1700	1200	mg/kg	Description of Plants	fungus fungus	
Boron (Total B):	26	19	mg/kg			
Moisture:	0	28.1	%	Pathogens	Results Units Rating	
Sodium (Na):	0.090	0.065	%	Fecal Coliform	210 MPN/g pass	
Chloride (Cl):	0.14	0.1	%	Salmonella	< 3 MPN/4g pass	
pH Value:	NA	7.35	unit	Date Tested: 03 Nov. 10		
Bulk Density :	18	24	lb/cu ft	Inerts	% by weight	
Carbonates (CaCO ₃):	<0.1	<0.1	lb/ton	Plastic	< 0.5	
Conductivity (EC5):	5.0	NA	mmhos/cm	Glass	< 0.5	
Organic Matter:	89.7	64.5	%	Metal	< 0.5	
Organic Carbon:	48.0	34.0	%	Sharps	ND	
Ash:	10.3	7.4	%	Size & Volume Distribution		
C/N Ratio	31	31	ratio	MM	% by weight % by volume BD g/cc	
AgIndex	> 10	> 10	ratio	> 50	0.0 0.0 0.00	
				25 to 50	0.0 0.0 0.00	
				16 to 25	0.0 0.0 0.00	
				9.5 to 16	0.0 0.0 0.00	
				6.3 to 9.5	6.2 6.0 0.26	
				4.0 to 6.3	18.2 22.2 0.20	
				2.0 to 4.0	28.7 33.9 0.21	
				< 2.0	46.9 37.9 0.31	
				Bulk Density Description:<.35 Light Materials, >.35-.60 medium weight materials, >.60 Heavy Materials		
				Analyst: Assaf Sadeh		
						

*Sample was received and handled in accordance with TMECC procedures.

Account No.:
0110084 - 1/1 - 5114
Group: Nov.10 A No. 10

Date Received
Sample i.d.
Sample I.d. No.

03 Nov. 10
Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6
1/1 0110084

INTERPRETATION:

Is Your Compost Stable?

Respiration Rate 2.4 mg CO ₂ -C/ g OM/day	Biodegradation Rate of Your Pile
Biologically Available Carbon (BAC) 2.7 mg CO ₂ -C/ g OM/day	Optimum Degradation Rate

Is Your Compost Mature?

Ammonia/NitrateN ratio 150 Ratio	VeryMature>< Mature >< Immature
Ammonia N ppm 4700 mg/kg dry wt.	VeryMature>< Mature >< Immature
Nitrate N ppm 31 mg/kg dry wt.	< Immature >< Mature
pH value 7.35 units	< Immature >< Mature >< Immature
Cucumber Emergence 100.0 percent	< Immature >< Mature

Is Your Compost Safe Regarding Health?

Fecal Coliform < 1000 MPN/g dry wt.	< Safe >< High Fecal Coliform
Salmonella Less than 3 /4g dry wt.	<Safe (none detected) >< High Salmonella Count(> 3 per 4 grams)
Metals US EPA 503 Pass dry wt.	<All Metals Pass >< One or more Metals Fail

Does Your Compost Provide Nutrients or Organic Matter?

Nutrients (N+P2O5+K2O) 3.2 Percent dry wt.	<Low >< Average >< High Nutrient Content
AgIndex (Nutrients / Sodium and Chloride Salts) 14 Ratio	Na & Cl >< Nutrient and Sodium and Chloride Provider >< Nutrient Provider
Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN) 13 lbs/ton wet wt.	Low Nitrogen Provider>< Average Nitrogen Provider ><High Nitrogen Provider
C/N Ratio 31 Ratio	< Nitrogen Release >< N-Neutral >< N-Demand>< High Nitrogen Demand
Soluble Available Nutrients & Salts (EC5 w/w dw) 5.0 mmhos/cm dry wt.	SloRelease>< Average Nutrient Release Rate ><High Available Nutrients
Lime Content (CaCO3) 0 Lbs/ton dry wt.	+ < Low >< Average >< High Lime Content (as CaCO3)

What are the physical properties of your compost?

Percent Ash 10.3 Percent dry wt.	< High Organic Matter >< Average >< High Ash Content
Sieve Size % > 6.3 MM (0.25") 6.2 Percent dry wt.	All Uses >< Size May Restrict Uses for Potting mix and Golf Courses

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03 Nov. 10
Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6
1/1 0110084

INTERPRETATION:

Is Your Compost Stable?

Page two of three

Respiration Rate

2.4 Low: Good for all uses mg CO₂-C/g OM/day

The respiration rate is a measurement of the biodegradation rate of the organic matter in the sample (as received). The respiration rate is determined by measuring the rate at which CO₂ is released under optimized moisture and temperature conditions.

Biologically Available Carbon

2.7 Low: Good for all uses mg CO₂-C/g OM/day

Biologically Available Carbon (BAC) is a measurement of the rate at which CO₂ is released under optimized moisture, temperature, porosity, nutrients, pH and microbial conditions. If both the RR and the BAC test values are close to the same value, the pile is optimized for composting. If both values are high the compost pile just needs more time. If both values are low the compost has stabilized and should be moved to curing. BAC test values that are higher than RR indicate that the compost pile has stalled. This could be due to anaerobic conditions, lack of available nitrogen due to excessive air converting ammonia to the unavailable nitrate form, lack of nitrogen or other nutrients due to poor choice of feedstock, pH value out of range, or microbes rendered non-active.

Is Your Compost Mature?

Ammonia:NitrateN ratio

150 immature

Composting to stabilize carbon can occur at such a rapid rate that sometimes phytotoxins remain in the compost and must be neutralized before using in high concentrations or in high-end uses. This step is called curing. Typically ammonia is in excess with the break-down of organic materials resulting in an increase in pH. This combination results in a loss of volatile ammonia (it smells). Once this toxic ammonia has been reduced and the pH drops, the microbes convert the ammonia to nitrates. A low ammonia + high nitrate score is indicative of a mature compost, however there are many exceptions. For example, a compost with a low pH (<7) will retain ammonia, while a compost with high lime content can lose ammonia before the organic fraction becomes stable. Composts must first be stable before curing indicators apply.

Ammonia N ppm

4700 immature

Nitrate N ppm

31 immature

pH value

7.35 mature

Cucumber Bioassay

100.0 Percent

Cucumbers are chosen for this test because they are salt tolerant and very sensitive to ammonia and organic acid toxicity. Therefore, we can germinate seeds in high concentrations of compost to measure phytotoxic effects without soluble salts being the limiting factor. Values above 80% for both percent emergence and vigor are indicative of a well-cured compost. Exceptions include very high salts that affect the cucumbers, excessive concentrations of nitrates and other nutrients that will be in range when formulated to make a growing media. In addition to testing a 1:1 compost: vermiculite blend, we also test a diluted 1:4 blend to indicate a more sensitive toxicity level.

Is Your Compost Safe Regarding Health?

Fecal Coliform

< 1000 / g dry wt.

Fecal coliforms can survive in both aerobic and anaerobic conditions and is common in all initial compost piles. Most human pathogens occur from fecal matter and all fecal matter is loaded in fecal coliforms. Therefore fecal coliforms are used as an indicator to determine if the chosen method for pathogen reduction (heat for compost) has met the requirements of sufficient temperature, time and mixing. If the fecal coliforms are reduced to below 1000 per gram dry wt. it is assumed all other pathogens are eliminated. Potential problems are that fecal coliform can regrow during the curing phase or during shipping. This is because the conditions are now more favorable for growth than during the composting process.

Salmonella Bacteria

Less than 3 3 / 4g dry wt. Salmonella is not only another indicator organism but also a toxic microbe. It has been used in the case of biosolids industry to determine adequate pathogen reduction.

Metals

Pass

The ten heavy metals listed in the EPA 503 regulations are chosen to determine if compost can be applied to ag land and handled without toxic effects. Most high concentrations of heavy metals are derived from woodwaste feedstock such as chrome-arsenic treated or lead painted demolition wood. Biosolids are rarely a problem.

Does Your Compost Provide Nutrients or Organic Matter?

Nutrients (N+P₂O₅+K₂O)

3.2 Average nutrient content

This value is the sum of the primary nutrients Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. Reported units are consistent with those found on fertilizer formulations. A sum greater than 5 is indicative of a compost with high nutrient content, and best used to supply nutrients to a receiving soil. A sum below 2 indicates low nutrient content, and is best-used to improve soil structure via the addition of organic matter. Most compost falls between 2 and 5.

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 Date Received: 03 Nov. 10
 Sample i.d.: Rancho Las Virgenes Finished Compost 5&6
 Group: Nov.10 A No. 10
 Sample I.d. No.: 1/1 0110084

INTERPRETATION:

AgIndex (Nutrients/Na+Cl)

14 High nutrient ratio Composts with low AgIndex values have high concentrations of sodium and/or chloride compared to nutrients. Repeated use of a compost with a low AgIndex (< 2) may result in sodium and/or chloride acting as the limiting factor compared to nutrients, governing application rates. These composts may be used on well-draining soils and/or with salt-tolerant plants. Additional nutrients from another source may be needed if the application rate is limited by sodium or chloride. If the AgIndex is above 10, nutrients optimal for plant growth will be available without concern of sodium and/or chloride toxicity. Composts with an AgIndex of above 10 are good for increasing nutrient levels for all soils. Most composts score between 2 and 10. Concentrations of nutrients, sodium, and chloride in the receiving soil should be considered when determining compost application rates. The AgIndex is a product of feedstock quality. Feedstock from dairy manure, marine waste, industrial wastes, and halophytic plants are likely to produce a finished compost with a low AgIndex.

Plant Available Nitrogen (lbs/ton)

13 Average N Provider Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN) is calculated by estimating the release rate of Nitrogen from the organic fraction of the compost. This estimate is based on information gathered from the BAC test and measured ammonia and nitrate values. Despite the PAN value of the compost, additional sources of Nitrogen may be needed during the growing season to offset the Nitrogen demand of the microbes present in the compost. With ample nutrients these microbes can further breakdown organic matter in the compost and release bound Nitrogen. Nitrogen demand based on a high C/N ratio is not considered in the PAN calculation because additional Nitrogen should always be supplemented to the receiving soil when composts with a high C/N ratio are applied.

C/N Ratio

31 Indicates immaturity As a guiding principal, a C/N ratio below 14 indicates maturity and above 14 indicates immaturity, however, there are many exceptions. Large woodchips (>6.3mm), bark, and redwood are slow to breakdown and therefore can result in a relatively stable product while the C/N ratio value is high. Additionally, some composts with chicken manure and/or green grass feedstocks can start with a C/N ratio below 15 and are very unstable. A C/N ratio below 10 supplies Nitrogen, while a ratio above 20 can deplete Nitrogen from the soil. The rate at which Nitrogen will be released or used by the microbes is indicated by the respiration rate (BAC). If the respiration rate is too high the transfer of Nitrogen will not be controllable.

Soluble Nutrients & Salts (EC5 w/w dw - mmhos/cm)

5.0 Average salts This value refers to all soluble ions including nutrients, sodium, chloride and some soluble organic compounds. The concentration of salts will change due to the release of salts from the organic matter as it degrades, volatilization of ammonia, decomposition of soluble organics, and conversion of molecular structure. High salts + high AgIndex is indicative of a compost high in readily available nutrients. The application rate of these composts should be limited by the optimum nutrient value based on soil analysis of the receiving soil. High Salts + low AgIndex is indicative of a compost low in nutrients with high concentrations of sodium and/or chloride. Limit the application rate according to the toxicity level of the sodium and/or chloride. Low salts indicates that the compost can be applied without risking salt toxicity, is likely a good source of organic matter, and that nutrients will release slowly over time.

Lime Content (lbs. per ton)

0 Low lime content Compost high in lime or carbonates are often those produced from chicken manure (layers) ash materials, and lime products. These are excellent products to use on a receiving soil where lime has been recommended by soil analysis to raise the pH. Composts with a high lime content should be closely considered for pH requirements when formulating potting mixes.

Physical Properties

Percent Ash

10.3 Low ash content Ash is the non-organic fraction of a compost. Most composts contain approximately 50% ash (dry weight basis). Compost can be high in ash content for many reasons including: excess mineralization (old compost), contamination with soil base material during turning, poor quality feedstock, and soil or mineral products added. Finding the source and reducing high ash content is often the fastest means to increasing nutrient quality of a compost.

Particle Size % > 6.3 MM (0.25")

6.2 May restrict use Large particles may restrict use for potting soils, golf course topdressings, seed-starter mixes, and where a fine size distribution is required. Composts with large particles can still be used as excellent additions to field soils, shrub mixes and mulches.

Particle Size Distribution

Each size fraction is measured by weight, volume and bulk density. These results are particularly relevant with decisions to screen or not, and if screening, which size screen to use. The bulk density indicates if the fraction screened is made of light weight organic material or heavy mineral material. Removing large mineral material can greatly improve compost quality by increasing nutrient and organic concentrations.

Appendix:	Estimated available nutrients for use when calculating application rates
Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN) calculations:	lbs/ton
PAN = (X * (organic N)) + ((NH4-N) + (NO3-N))	
X value = If BAC < 2 then X = 0.1	Plant Available Nitrogen (PAN) 13.0
If BAC =2.1 to 5 then X = 0.2	Ammonia (NH4-N) 6.80
If BAC =5.1 to 10 then X = 0.3	Nitrate (NO3-N) 0.04
If BAC > 10 then X = 0.4	Available Phosphorus (P2O5*0.64) 14.3
Note: If C/N ratio > 15 additional N should be applied.	Available Potassium (K2O) 2.0