

# QA CONSULTING AND TESTING LLC

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Project: Topsoil

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## TOPSOIL REPORT AND QUALITY GUIDELINES\*

Sample Name	pH	Soluble Salts dS/m or mmho/cm	Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	Organic Matter %	Sand %	Silt %	Clay %	Texture Class
Topsoil	7.4	0.4	0.2	2.2	58	22	20	Sandy Loam
Ideal	5.5-7.5	<2	<3	≥2.0	<70	<70	<30	Loam (L), Silt Loam (SiL)
Acceptable	5.0-8.2	<4	3 to 7 SiL, SiCL, CL 3 to 10 SCL, SL, L	≥1.0	<70	<70	<30	Sandy Clay Loam (SCL) Sandy Loam (SL) Clay Loam (CL) Silty Clay Loam (SiCL)
Suspect	<5.0 >8.2	>4	>10	<1.0	≥70	≥70	≥30	Loamy Sand (LS) Sandy Clay (SC) Silty Clay (SiC) Sand (S), Silt (S), Clay(C)

## COARSE FRAGMENTS\*

Sample Name	% >2 mm (>5.0% exceeds guidelines)	Rocks Present >1.5" (>1.5" exceeds guidelines)
Topsoil	<b>7.5 (majority &lt;1/4")</b>	Not Present
Ideal	≤2.0	—
Acceptable	2.1-5.0	—
Suspect	>5.0	—

## TOPSOIL NUTRIENT REPORT AND SPECIFICATION\*

Sample Name	Nitrate Nitrogen ppm	Phosphorus ppm	Potassium ppm	Iron ppm
Topsoil	<b>3</b>	19	181	18
Specification	<b>&gt;20</b>	>15	>150	>10

\*from "Topsoil Quality Guidelines for Landscaping", June 2002, AG/SO-02, prepared by Rich Koenig, Utah State University Cooperative Extension Soil Specialist, and Von Isaman, QA Consulting and Testing, LLC.

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**Interpretation:**

**Topsoil** Coarse Fragment Percent >2mm is in the Suspect category for the Topsoil Guidelines. Nitrate Nitrogen does not meet Nutrient Specification.

**Recommendations:**

Apply an Nitrogen fertilizer at label rate.

Incorporate 3.0 cu yds/1000 sq ft of an organic material for every 3” of soil depth.

Be sure the organic material meets the Compost Quality Guidelines shown below. No additional organic material is recommended for organic matter content  $\geq 5.0\%$ .

Scarify the subsoil at least 6 inches before applying topsoil.

**COMPOST QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING\***

Category	pH**	Soluble Salts** dS/m or mmho/cm	Sodium Adsorption Ratio** (SAR)	Carbon:Nitrogen Ratio*** (C:N)	% Moisture****	$\geq 98\%$ Coarse Material Passing (dry wt basis)
Ideal	6 to 8	$\leq 5$	<10	$\leq 20:1$	25 to 35	3/8" (9.5 mm)
Acceptable	5-6, 8-9	$\leq 10$	$\leq 20$	21:1 to 30:1	<25, >35	3/4" (19 mm)
Suspect	<5, >9	>10	>20	<10:1, >30:1	<20, >50	<98% 3/4"

for composts with biosolid feedstocks, biosolids must meet EPA 503 Class A standards

\*Von Isaman MS, President of QA Consulting and Testing LLC, Dr. Rich Koenig, USU Cooperative Extension Soils Specialist, and Dr. Teresa Cerny, USU Cooperative Extension Horticulturalist, 3 March 2003.

\*\* 1:5 Compost:Water Slurry on Coarse Material passing 3/8” (9.5 mm), \*\*\* on Coarse Material passing 3/8” (9.5 mm)

\*\*\*\* on total sample

Acceptable level Soluble Salts and/or SAR composts then do not exceed 3 cu yds/1000 sq ft for every 3 inches of soil depth.

End.

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