

Sampling of a representative sample of compost

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1. Material

- 1 auger ("single edelman auger, sand type", diameter 10 cm, minimum length 100 cm)
- 1 bucket or plastic bin with strong edges (so that the auger can be hit to drop the compost)
- 1 plastic sheet of 1.5m x 1.5m, to mix the compost samples (thick plastic (about 0.5mm) but flexible).

2. Procedure

Windrow: with the auger, make a cross section in up to the center of the windrow every 10-15 meter's (depending on the length of the windrow). For smaller windrows: make at least 5 cuts per windrow.



During sieving: take about 1 sample of 2 liters every 15 m³. For smaller batches: take a minimum of 3 samples.



Compost storage pile: with the auger, take a deep sample (up to about 80 cm) per 15 m³ of compost. For smaller piles: take at least 3 samples.



Spread the compost over the plastic sheet and mix it well.



For biotests, sieve the compost at 10 mm.



Take the required amount of compost: about 1 to 2 liters for chemical analyses, 10 to 12 liters for biotests.



Place samples in air-permeable bags or leave them open. Clearly mark the sample bags (date of sampling, charge number, age of compost). Do not use to mark samples with pieces of paper placed in the sample (the paper will decompose quickly).



Samples should be analyzed quickly, as values such as mineral nitrogen change rapidly. If the analysis cannot be performed on the same day as the sampling, store the samples in a cool place (4°C).



Only a representative sample of compost, taken according to the rules of the art, can give usable results.