

Compost Sample Collection

Non-USCC STA Compost

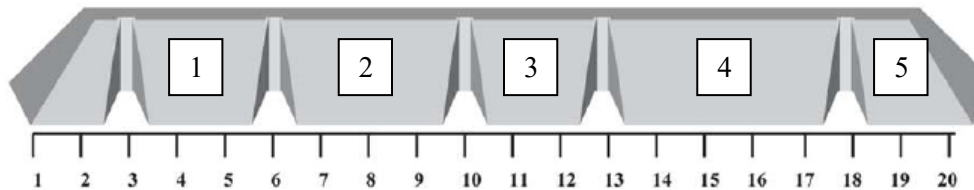


Fig 02.01-B1 Hypothetical sample collection pattern from a compost windrow.

Using tractor skid-loader, bobcat, shovel, or sample boring device, cut into the finished compost pile or windrow at five (5) or more randomly selected positions as illustrated in Fig. 02.01-B1. Samples of equal volume are collected from the compost pile at three depths or zones measure from the pile's uppermost surface. Collect no less than five point-samples from each of the three depths or zones illustrated in Fig. 02.01-B2. The five-point samples for each zone must be collected in a manner to accurately represent the horizontal cross-section of the windrow or pile.

Use a sanitized sampling tool (a gloved hand, clean shovel or auger) when collecting samples and when transferring samples to the 5-gallon sample collection pail. Completely mix the point samples (15 subsamples) by stirring thoroughly with a sanitized wooden stick or lath. Cover and shake the pail to further mix the samples.

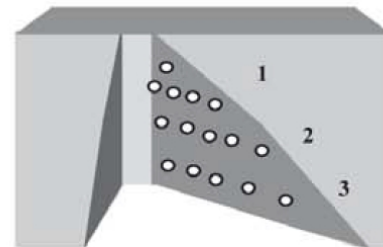


Fig 02.01-B2 Five horizontally dispersed point-samples are collected from each of three depths or zones within each cutout.

Repeat the blending process at least four times until all point samples are thoroughly blended to form one composite sample that accurately represents the compost for the cutout.

Proceed to the next compost sample cutout and repeat this process to collect one thoroughly blended composite sample (15 subsamples) from each of the five cutouts. After all five (5) cutouts are sampled and 15 subsamples taken from each section, you will have a total of 75 total cores which would represent the entire length of the windrow.

Transfer each of the five composite cut-out samples from the sample collection pails onto a mixing tarp or other appropriately sanitized surface or container, such as into a large pail where all samples can be mixed, blended and then covered to minimize moisture loss. Thoroughly blend the five composite cutout samples to form one large sample that represents the average condition of the entire batch or windrow in question.

Quarter the composite sample and thoroughly mix and quarter again. Continue to subdivide and split the sample into quarters and mix as described until sample size reaches approximately 4-L (1-gallon).

Transfer the blended compost to a 4-L (1-gallon) sample bag, (e.g., plastic Ziploc® freezer bag). Seal and secure the plastic bag with packing tape to avoid opening while in transit.

Place in a shipping box with the submittal form plus all pertinent information, including the desired testing code (CHM-01, CHM-02, CHM-03, etc.). Minimize the amount of shift or movement of the sample bag by surrounding it with newspaper or other such packing material.