



**YARD WASTE COMPOST
 -FORM #415 SPECIFICATION GUIDELINES-**

1) Gradation: A minimum of 90% of the material by weight shall pass a 1/2" screen. Material passing the 1/2" screen shall meet the following criteria.

<u>Percent Passing</u>	<u>Sieve Designation</u>
85 – 100	9.51 mm (3/8")
50 – 80	2.38 mm (No. 8)
0 – 40	500 micron (No. 35)

2) Organic content: Minimum 50% based on dry weight and determined by ash method. Minimum 250 lbs. organic matter per cubic yard of compost.

3) Carbon to nitrogen ratio: Maximum 35:1.

4) pH: 5.5 – 8.0 as determined in saturated paste.

5) Soluble salts: Soluble nutrients typically account for most of the salinity levels but sodium should account for less than 25% of the total. To avoid a leaching requirement, the addition of the compost shall result in a final ECe of the amended soil of less than 4.0 dS/m @ 25 degrees C. as determined in a saturation extract. Use the following table to determine the maximum allowable ECe (dS/m of saturation extract) of compost at the desired use rate.

Desired Use Rate		Salinity (ECe) of On-Site Soil		
Cu. Yds. Amendment per 1000 sq. ft. for incorporation to 6" depth	Volume Percentage of Amendment	3 dS/m	2 dS/m	1 dS/m
		Maximum ECe of Compost		
2	11	7	14	21
3	16	5	9.5	14
4	22	3.5	7	10.5
5	27	3	5.5	8.5

Example: Specification calls for 4 cu. yds. compost per 1000 sq. ft. to a 6" depth, and site soil has an ECe of 2.0. In order to avoid exceeding an ECe of 4 in the final blend, compost ECe should be less than 5.5 dS/m.

6) Contaminants: The compost shall be free of contaminants such as glass, metal and visible plastic. Heavy metals, fecal coliform, and Salmonella sp shall not exceed levels outlined in California Integrated Waste Management regulations.

7) Maturity characteristics:

color: dark brown to black

odor: Acceptable = none, soil-like, musty or moldy Unacceptable = sour, ammonia or putrid

particle characterization: identifiable wood pieces are acceptable but the balance of material should be soil-like without recognizable grass or leaves.