

# Cornell Waste Management Institute



Ellen Z. Harrison  
Director

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu>

# Interests of Compost-Using Industry and Homeowners

## What they care about

- Weed seeds
- Consistency of product
- pH
- Chemical and physical contamination
- NPK
- Organic Matter content
- Pathogens

# New Rules

- 1 NYCRR section 153.1 amended
- Ag compost is exempt from fertilizer fees and guaranteed analysis.
- Label average total N, total P and total K.
- Can include other compost characteristics.
- Obtain license and file test results filed with the NYS DAM.

# Typical Guideline Parameters

Density

pH

OM

C:N ratio

Maturity

Nitrogen

Soluble salts

Metals

Particle size

Foreign matter

**HEIFER-HEAVEN COMPOSTS**

Long Island, NY – (555) 555-5555

**Feedstock:** Dairy cow manure, wood chips, sawdust, leaf and yard waste  
**Date of Analysis:** 06/24/02; 3 sample sites

<b>General</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>s1</b>	<b>s2</b>	<b>s3</b>	<b>Ave</b>
Maturity	<i>solvita</i>	6	6	7	<b>6.3</b>
Organic Matter	%	34.1	31.2	29.6	<b>31.6</b>
Weed Seeds	<i>#/Liter</i>	4	12	7	<b>7.7</b>
Density	<i>lb/ft<sup>3</sup></i>	44.5	37.9	41.0	<b>41.1</b>
Solids	%	23	31	28	<b>27.3</b>
C:N Ratio	<i>X:1</i>	16	21	19	<b>18.7</b>
pH	<i>pH</i>	7.91	8.01	7.84	<b>7.92</b>
Conductivity	<i>umhos</i>	2.8	5.2	4.1	<b>4.0</b>
Nutrients					
Total Nitrogen (N)	%	1.3	1.6	1.5	<b>1.5</b>
Total Phosphorus (P)	%	0.4	0.1	0.3	<b>0.27</b>
Total Potassium (K)	%	0.7	0.9	1.1	<b>0.9</b>
Total Calcium (Ca)	%	4.07	3.12	3.98	<b>3.72</b>
Total Magnesium (Mg)	%	0.71	0.52	0.64	<b>0.62</b>
Metals					
Copper	<i>ppm</i>	31.6	64.8	45.2	<b>47.2</b>
Iron	<i>ppm</i>	9603.1	5684.5	7874.9	<b>7720.8</b>
Zinc	<i>ppm</i>	125.8	182.9	98.4	<b>135.7</b>
Arsenic	<i>ppm</i>	5.6	1.1	2.5	<b>3.1</b>
Cadmium	<i>ppm</i>	3.1	0.9	2.2	<b>2.1</b>
Plant Response					
<i>L. sativum</i> germination	%	98.5	99.4	101.3	<b>99.7</b>
<i>L. sativum</i> weight	%	52.0	69.3	45.1	<b>55.5</b>

For more information visit CWOI website at <http://www.cwoi.com> for links to programs.\*Sources: *Solvita* (Fossils Bed Research Laboratory, Inc.), U.S. Composting Council, Seal of Testing Assurance (U.S. Composting Council), *ALGON* (ALGON, Inc.), ERO, National Bone and Soil Producers Association.For more information regarding specific guidelines and orders, visit CWOI website at [www.cwoi.com](http://www.cwoi.com) for links to programs.