

Southern Cross University Environmental Analysis Laboratory (EAL)

Compost/potting mix and topsoil testing according to Australian Standards

EAL – Southern Cross University’s Environmental Analysis Laboratory – is excited to be part of the recycled organics revolution.

A range of testing is offered to meet the requirements of Australian Standards for compost/mulch (AS4454), potting mix (AS3743) and top soil (AS4419) in a NATA-accredited laboratory. EAL offers discounted testing packs to meet the requirements of each of the standards as well as client-directed customisation for initial and validation (maturity) testing. EAL tests in accordance with various exemptions and orders issued by the EPA.

AS4454 is designed for compost manufacturers, distributors and specifiers, retailers, local government, and relevant state government agencies. The standard aims to protect human health, the environment, and food quality; and encourage beneficial and sustainable use to recover valuable nutrients and organic matter.

AS3743 is designed to provide potting mix manufacturers, educational institutions, consumers and growers with a set of minimum requirements to ensure potting mixes can germinate seeds, grow seedlings, strike cuttings and maintain plant growth.

AS4419 is designed to provide landscape and garden soil manufacturers, landscape designers/architects/gardeners, government main roads and consumers a set of minimum requirements to ensure physical and chemical integrity as well as protecting human health and the environment.

To meet industry needs, EAL offers a rapid turnaround of 3–5 working days for Basic Compost, and 5–10 working days for Landscape, Potting Mix and interim Full Compost analytical reports. Full Compost reports are provided on completion of Propagules testing after 24 days.

EAL also provides more than 20 years’ experience in agricultural, environmental and contamination testing which complements Australian Standards testing. The ‘EAL full analytical services price list’ provides details of our analysis option, and can be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.scu.edu.au/media/scueduau/commercial-services/eal/2018-Full-Price-List.pdf>

EAL looks forward to working with you.

Testing Parameters	AS4454 Compost	AS3743 Potting Mix	AS4419 Top Soil
Chemical Testing			
Organic matter (total organic carbon)	✓		✓
Total carbon/nitrogen	✓		✓
Dissolved nutrients	✓	✓	✓
Nitrogen drawdown	✓	✓	✓
Total metals	✓		✓
Total salts	✓	✓	
Available metals		✓	
Exchangeable nutrients			✓
Physical Testing			
pH/EC	✓	✓	✓
Wettability	✓	✓	✓
Permeability			✓
Dispersibility			✓
Particle size	✓		✓
Water holding capacity		✓	✓
Air filled porosity		✓	✓
Bioassay (growth)		✓	✓
Propagules	✓		✓
Texture			✓
Bulk density			✓
Contaminants Testing			
Heavy metals	✓		✓
Pesticides	✓		✓
Pathogens	✓		
Visible contaminants	✓		✓

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Southern Cross University

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