



SPURT INDUSTRIES COMPOSTING METHOD

For over 30 years, Spurt has been a commercial compost processing facility dedicated to producing STA-Certified Compost and soil amendments for landscapers, farmers, growers, and other contractors.

List of ingredients

1. Yard waste:

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Small twigs and tree trimmings
- Wood chips
- Garden debris smaller than 2 inches in diameter.

*No agricultural waste as a feedstock.

2. Brush and natural wood from trees:

- Brush
- Small bushes
- Roots and root balls
- Tree stumps
- Logs

*No pressure treated wood is accepted (i.e. lumber, 2 x 4, decking boards, wood fencing or any other wood that has been treated or has nails in it).

3. **For non-certified organic production:** In addition to yard waste and natural wood:

Food waste: vegetable waste, fruit scraps, coffee grounds, meat, bones, BPI certified products.

Processing of the compost

The composting method used at Spurt is windrow turning composting (Method that follows the NOP final rule).

This type of composting involves forming organic waste into rows of long piles called “windrows” and aerating them periodically by turning the piles with an excavator.

The size of the pile is large enough to generate enough heat and maintain temperatures. It is small enough to allow oxygen flow to the windrow's core. Piles are turned frequently to achieve a proper combination of materials in the pile and add oxygen. After the first 15 days, the frequency of turning varies, depending on the temperature of the pile.



To monitor the temperature of piles, we use a ReoTemp thermometer and pile temperatures are taken more frequently when the incoming material is first received, and after the first 15 days, temperatures are taken once a week (temperature range is 130-160 degrees to promote enough heat to speed up breakdown process but not too much heat that could be detrimental to beneficial microorganisms).

Once the compost is mature enough, initial ingredients are no longer recognizable, and temperatures have stabilized, the material is screened. The type of screener used is a 1/2inch Doppstadt trommel screen. The finished compost is then sent to a US Composting Council certified lab for testing.

STA Certification Testing

Spurt compost is STA Certified by the US Composting Council. Certified Compost Products are analyzed for the following properties:

- pH
- soluble salts
- nutrient content (total N, P₂O₅, K₂O, Ca, Mg)
- moisture content
- organic matter content
- bioassay (maturity)
- stability (respirometry)
- particle size (report only)
- pathogen (Fecal Coliform or Salmonella)
- trace metals (Part 503 regulated metals)

According to the Composting Council, to be considered compost, a product must:

- Be created via the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials.
- Undergo mesophilic (68° to 113° F) and thermophilic (106° to 252° F) temperatures to reduce the viability of pathogens and weed seeds, and to stabilize carbon levels so as to be beneficial to plant growth. This thermophilic heat sanitization must meet the standards of the Processes to Further Reduce Pathogens (PFRP) as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 503, Appendix B, Section B.
- Be used as a soil amendment or to contribute plant nutrients.
- Bear little resemblance to the raw material from which it was created.



- Be an organic matter that is able to improve the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soils or growing media.

STA Certification compost testing guidelines are as follows:

- Compost samples must only be sent to STA Compost Certified labs.
- Samples must be collected from ready-to-sell finished compost using the TMECC compost sampling methods. You can learn more about collecting samples in the “Collecting Field Samples” resource provided by the U.S. Composting Council.
- Compost samples should be sent in using the Chain of Custody form.
- Frequency of testing depends on the annual finished wet tonnage of compost manufactured.
- Both the compost manufacturer and the U.S. Composting Council receive test results directly from the labs.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets maximum concentrations for heavy metals like arsenic, lead, or mercury in every compost product. Products must also comply with maximum concentration limits for pathogens including salmonella and fecal coliform. These concentrations are expressed on a dry weight basis.