

# Composting FACTSHEET



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## CHARACTERISTICS OF ON-FARM COMPOSTING MATERIALS

Characteristics for materials marked with an asterisk (\*) are values typically found for B.C. materials. All other characteristics are summarized literature values.

Material	Nitrogen (Dry Weight) (%)	Carbon:Nitrogen Ratio (Dry Weight)	Typical Moisture Content (%)	Bulk Density at Moisture Content (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
1. <b>Beef</b> (*) - Feedlot c/w bedding	1.3	-	68	-
2. <b>Dairy</b> (*) - Solid Manure Handling - Liquid Slurry - Solids Separated from Slurry	1.7 2.4 - 3.6 1.45	18.0 - -	- 8 - 12 23	- - -
3. <b>Pig</b> (*) - Liquid Slurry - Solids Separated from Slurry	0.15 - 5.0 0.35 - 5.0	20 -	93 - 99 75 - 80	1000 270 - 860
4. <b>Poultry</b> (*) - Broiler Breeder Layer - Broiler Litter - Turkey Litter	3.6 4.7 4.2	10 15 14	46 25 33	470 330 380
5. <b>Horse Manure</b> c/w Bedding - c/w Straw Bedding (*) - c/w Shavings (*)	1.4 - 2.3 1.5 0.9	22 - 50 27 65	59 - 79 67 72	725 - 960 - -
6. Sheep Manure	1.3 - 3.9	13 - 20	60 - 75	-
7. Oat Straw	0.6 - 1.1	48 - 98	-	-
8. Wheat Straw	0.3 - 0.5	100 - 150	-	-
9. Legume Grass Hay	1.8 - 3.6	15 - 19	10 - 30	-
10. Straw	0.3 - 1.1	48 - 150	4 - 27	58 - 357
11. Non-Legume Vegetable	2.5 - 4.0	11 - 12	-	-
12. Fruit Waste	0.9 - 2.6	20 - 49	62 - 88	-

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13. Fish Scraps & Mortalities	6.5 - 14.2	2.6 - 5.0	50 - 81	-
14. Poultry Mortalities	2.4	5	65	-
15. Potato Tops	1.5	25	-	-
16. Mixed Slaughter-House W	7 - 10	2 - 4	-	-
17. Grass Clippings	2.0 - 6.0	9 - 25	82	180 - 260
18. Grass Clipping & Other Gardening Waste	2.0	19.3	15	250
19. Leaves (freshly fallen)	0.5 - 1.3	40 - 80	38	60 - 80
20. Paper	0.2 - 0.25	127 - 178	18 - 20	-
21. Sawdust	0.06 - 0.8	200 - 750	19 - 65	350 - 450
22. Woodwaste (chips)	0.04 - 0.23	212 - 1313	-	445 - 620

To convert to Imperial units: 1000 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> = 62 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>

Some waste materials, especially from industrial and municipal sources, can contain toxic substances that would make the compost unsuitable for its intended use. Thus, it is important that the compost operator obtain copies of any analysis that may be required

for disposal of the waste by pollution control authorities, and that metal concentrations be kept to levels acceptable to pollution control authorities for land application. If questionable materials are used, the compost must be analyzed.

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This is one of a series of Factsheets on Composting. A list of references used in producing this series is included in the Composting Factsheet "[Suggested Reading and References](#)."

**COMPOSTING FACTSHEET SERIES PREPARED BY:**

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