

# SLOVENSKI STANDARD SIST EN 16086-1:2012

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Izboljševalci tal in rastni substrati - Določevanje sprejemljivosti za rastline - 1. del: Preskus rasti v loncu s kitajskim zeljem

Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of plant response - Part 1: Pot growth test with Chinese cabbage

Bodenverbesserungsmittel und Kultursubstrate - Bestimmung der Pflanzenverträglichkeit - Teil 1: Wachstumstest mit Chinakohl im Topfan PREVIEW

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Amendements du sol et supports de culture - Détermination de la réponse des plantes Partie 1: Essai de croissance en pot avec du chou de Chine

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65.080 Gnojila Fertilizers

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#### **English Version**

# Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of plant response - Part 1: Pot growth test with Chinese cabbage

Amendements du sol et supports de culture -Détermination de la réponse des plantes - Partie 1: Essai de croissance en pot avec du chou de Chine Bodenverbesserungsmittel und Kultursubstrate -Bestimmung der Pflanzenverträglichkeit - Teil 1: Wachstumstest mit Chinakohl im Topf

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### **Foreword**

This document (EN 16086-1:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223 "Soil improvers and growing media", the secretariat of which is held by ASI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2012.

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# 1 Scope

This European Standard describes a method for the routine determination of the effect of soil improvers and growing media or constituents thereof on the growth of Chinese cabbage (and in certain cases spring barley).

This test may not be suitable for all growing media since the growing media characteristics (e.g. nutrient content) will vary according to target use and the product is not tested in accordance with the specified use and pack recommendations.

This test is not appropriate for the detection of nitrogen immobilization.

#### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 13037, Soil improvers and growing media – Determination of pH

EN 13038, Soil improvers and growing media – Determination of electrical conductivity

EN 13040, Soil improvers and growing media – Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory compacted bulk density

EN ISO 3696, Water for analytical laboratory use - Specification and test methods (ISO 3696:1987)

# 3 Terms and definitions

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For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

#### plant response

variation in plant germination and/or growth when sown and grown in a growing medium, soil improver or constituent thereof or in an extract obtained from these materials

Factors causing negative plant growth cannot be identified nor quantified by applying this method.

#### 3.2

#### prepared sample

portion of the laboratory sample, undiluted or diluted with sphagnum peat at given ratios, fertilized and limed as required

# 4 Principle of the plant growth response test

#### 4.1 General

Depending on the material to be tested, one of the two methods described in this standard shall be used.

#### 4.2 Pot experiment with direct use of the prepared sample

Sowing a defined quantity of Chinese cabbage into pots containing the prepared sample, cultivating under controlled conditions for a defined period of time and evaluating the plant response by determining the germination rate, fresh weight, abnormalities and overall plant growth.

If the presence of graminacious herbicides is suspected, Spring barley shall be used in addition to Chinese cabbage. For testing of other specific effects, the use of additional plant species (for example lettuce) can be considered.

# 4.3 Pot experiment using an extract of the original sample

Mixing the original sample with nutrient solution as an extractant, soaking for 4 h at ambient temperature and collecting the freely available nutrient solution. Filling pots with perlite saturated with the extract and continuing as described under 4.2, irrigating during the test period with a fixed quantity of the extract and afterwards water.

If the presence of graminacious herbicides is suspected, Spring barley shall be used in addition to Chinese cabbage. For testing of other specific effects, the use of additional plant species (for example lettuce) can be considered.

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# 5 Choice of methodology tandards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/3b36fe21-0ecc-4a8e-882f-3d3b6adb5799/sist-en-16086-1-2012

For most materials, the pot growth test can be carried out as described in Clause 6. However, for coarse materials such as bark, expanded clay, lava, mineral wool, perlite, polyurethane and pumice with an inherently low water holding capacity which are used as growing media without amendment, this procedure is unsuitable and the extract method described in Clause 7 shall be adopted.

### 6 Pot experiment with direct use of the prepared sample

#### 6.1 Materials

#### 6.1.1 Water of class 3

According to EN ISO 3696.

#### 6.1.2 Sphagnum peat

Sphagnum peat with a degree of humification of H3 - H5 according to von Post scale, having a pH measured according to EN 13037 of between 3,0 and 4,5, an EC measured according to EN 13038 of between 1 mS m<sup>-1</sup> and 5 mS m<sup>-1</sup>, a particle size of < 10 mm and to which neither lime nor fertilizer has been added.

#### 6.1.3 Fertilized and limed sphagnum peat

Sphagnum peat (see 6.1.2), having a pH measured according to EN 13037 adjusted using ground limestone (see 6.1.4) to a range between 5,5 and 6,5, fertilized with a water soluble "complete" fertilizer with essential

micronutrients, added at a rate to supply (225  $\pm$  25) mg N ·  $\Gamma^{-1}$ , (for example 1,5 g ·  $\Gamma^{-1}$  water soluble complete fertilizer N :  $P_2O_5$ :  $K_2O - 15$  : 10 : 20), (see B.1).

#### 6.1.4 Ground limestone

Finely ground limestone, containing at least 5 % MgCO<sub>3</sub>, having a particle size less than 1 mm and a moisture content of less than 1 % m/m.

#### 6.1.5 Seeds of Chinese cabbage (Brassica napa, ssp. pekinensis)

Specified germination capacity  $\geq$  95 %.

#### 6.1.6 Seeds of Spring barley (Hordeum vulgare)

Specified germination capacity  $\geq$  95 %.

#### 6.2 Apparatus

- 6.2.1 Sieve with 20 mm mesh size
- 6.2.2 Sieve with 5 mm mesh size

#### 6.2.3 Circular plant pot

Upper diameter (12  $\pm$  0,5) cm , height between 8,5 cm and 9,0 cm, volume between 650 ml and 700 ml, perforated bottom to provide drainage (for example plastic pot used in horticulture).

#### 6.2.4 Saucer

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Saucer capable of catching all surplus water from the plant container after overhead watering.

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### 6.2.5 Thin fleece or plastic sheet for covering the containers

#### 6.2.6 Testing facility

Testing facility capable of maintaining and monitoring the temperature and light intensity specified in 6.4 such as a greenhouse or plant growth room.

#### **6.2.7** Irrigation device for watering the pots

For example watering can, greenhouse watering hose

#### 6.2.8 Analytical balance

Accuracy 0,01 g, capacity 500 g.

# 6.3 Preparation of the sample

#### 6.3.1 General preparation

Pass the sample through a 20 mm sieve (see 6.2.1). Any foreign material such as plastic, metal or glass retained on the sieve shall be removed and noted. Other material that is retained on the sieve and which is an intrinsic part of the sample shall be physically reduced to parts of similar size as few times as are necessary to permit the entire sample to pass through the sieve. Fibrous materials i.e. coir fibres and straw shall be cut to a length  $\leq$  20 mm by using scissors. Thoroughly mix the laboratory sample with the broken particles that had been retained on the sieve taking care to minimise physical damage to the sample as a whole. Transportation

and possible storage of the samples shall be done in accordance with EN 13040, using food grade polyethylene bags.

#### 6.3.2 Mixing procedure

Before mixing, the laboratory compacted bulk density shall be measured (according to EN 13040).

To produce the prepared sample, the material prepared as described in 6.3.1 is thoroughly mixed with sphagnum peat (see 6.1.2) on a volume/volume – basis as given in Table 1. The pH according to EN 13037 is ideally within the range between 5,5 and 6,5. If it is below, the pH shall be adjusted by adding limestone (see 6.1.4). If it is above, the pH shall be noted.

Additionally, a water soluble complete fertilizer with essential micronutrients, added at a rate to supply (225  $\pm$  25) mg N ·  $\Gamma^{1}$  (for example 1,5 g ·  $\Gamma^{1}$  water soluble complete fertilizer N :  $P_{2}O_{5}$ :  $K_{2}O$  – 15 : 10 : 20) (see B.1) is added to one litre of prepared sample (according to EN 13040).

The dilution ratios in Table 1 are based on horticultural practice in the usage of growing media, growing media constituents, soil improvers and soil improver constituents. In general, it is sufficient to carry out the test using the highest proportion of test material. The second dilution ratio may be helpful for further judging plant response.

If required (for example to fulfil certain quality certification requirements or legislation), materials can be tested with other dilution ratios than mentioned in Table 1 or without dilution. It might also be necessary to apply further nutritional adjustments, cases are described in B.2. Any adjustments shall be reported.

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Table 1 — Dilution ratios for test materials (growing media and constituents thereof; soil improvers and constituents thereof), using sphagnum peat (see 6.1.2) as the dilution material for pot growth tests with Chinese cabbage

Test material	Ratio $(V/V)$ of test material to sphagnum peat to obtain the prepared sample <sup>a</sup>			
Growing media				
All kinds (except pre-shaped growing media and roof-garden media)	100 : 0			
Organic materials				
	obligatory	optional		
Bark (uncomposted)	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Brown coal (lignite)	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Cocoa hulls	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Coir pith	100 : 0	50 : 50		
Coir fibres	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Coir chips	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Composts made of material such as biodegradable waste, bark, wood, straw, manure	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Forest litter	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Manure	25 : 75	10 : 90		
Peat (any type) ITeh STANDARD PREV	100 : 0	50 : 50		
Rice hulls (standards ital ai)	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Solid digestate (Standards.iten.ar)	20 : 80	10 : 90		
Spent mushroom casing soil	25 : 75	10 : 90		
Straw SIST EN 16086-1:2012	50:50	25 : 75		
Wood fibres 3d3h6adh5799/sist-en-16086-1-2012	50:50	25 : 75		
Wood chips	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Wood shavings	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Mineral materials				
Clay	25 : 75	10 : 90		
Expanded clay (also broken)	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Lava	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Mineral wool flakes	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Perlite (expanded)	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Pumice	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Sand	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Vermiculite	50 : 50	25 : 75		
Synthetic-organic materials (plastics)				
Expanded polystyrene flakes (styrofoam), urea-formaldehyde foam resins, etc.	50 : 50	25 : 75		
NOTE Non-listed materials may also be tested; the dilution ratio(s) for non-list similar product groups listed in Table 1.	ed materials may be c	hosen by analogy w		

(V/V), take – for example – one litre of test material and three litres of sphagnum peat. The laboratory compacted bulk

density of the materials according to EN 13040 shall be the basis.

<sup>9</sup>