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Standard Test Method of Sampling Processed Peat Materials¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers procedures for obtaining samples for use in the determination of moisture, ash, and organic matter; volume; pH; volume weights, water-holding capacity, and air capacity of water-saturated peat materials; total nitrogen; particle size range; and sand content of processed peat materials.²

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 2607 Classification of Peats, Mosses, Humus, and Related Products³

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This test method provides a uniform procedure for obtaining relatively homogeneous samples when obtained from a multiplicity of sources.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Slotted Tube*, single or double, or slotted tube and rod, all with pointed ends and a minimum 1-in. (25-mm) diameter. The Pennsylvania State Forage Sampler is a satisfactory core sampler.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.18 on Peats and Related Materials.

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² Standards for the sampling of undisturbed peats in situ are presently being prepared by ASTM Committee D-18.

³ Discontinued; see 1992 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.

5. Procedure

5.1 Take a representative sample from the lot or shipment as follows:

5.1.1 *Packaged or Baled Peats*—Lay the bag or bale horizontally and remove the core diagonally from end to end. Determine the number of cores as follows: from lots of 1 to 10 bags, sample all bags; from lots of 11 or more, sample 10 bags. Take 1 core from each bag sampled except for lots of 1 to 4 bags, take enough diagonal cores from each bag to total at least 5 cores.

5.1.2 *Bulk Samples*—Draw at least 10 cores from different regions.

5.1.3 *Small Containers (10 lb (4.5 kg) or less)*—Take the entire package. Working rapidly to prevent moisture losses, reduce the composite sample to not less than 500 g by weight or 2 L by volume by mixing on a clean oilcloth or paper and quartering. Place sample in an airtight container.

5.2 Sampling by random “grab” procedure is necessary if the particle size range is to be determined or if representative sample cannot be taken with a core sampler.

6. Precision and Bias

6.1 *Precision*—Due to the nature of the soil or rock materials tested by this test method it is either not feasible or too costly at this time to produce multiple specimens which have uniform physical properties. Any variation observed in the data is just as likely to be due to specimen variation as to operator or laboratory testing variation. Subcommittee D18.18 welcomes proposals that would allow for development of a valid precision statement.

6.2 *Bias*—There is no accepted reference value for this test method, therefore, bias cannot be determined.

7. Keywords

7.1 peat; samples; sampling

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