



Designation: D2978 – 15

Standard Test Methods for Volume of Processed Peat Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2978; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods cover the measurement of the volume of loose and baled processed peat expressed as cubic feet and is used as a quality control measurement to determine if the package contains the labeled amount of material. The results of these test methods are highly dependent on the experience of the personnel running the procedure.

1.2 There are two test methods, Method A for Loose Peat and Method B for Baled Peat. Method A is used when the material is uncompacted and Method B is used when the material is compacted.

1.3 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. Except, that the sieve designations are typically identified using the “alternative” system in accordance with Practice E11, such as 3-in. and No. 200, instead of the “standard” of 75-mm and 75- μ m, respectively.

1.4 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice D6026.

1.4.1 The procedures used to specify how data are collected/recorded or calculated in this standard are regarded as the industry standard. In addition, they are representative of the significant digits that generally should be retained. The procedures used do not consider material variation, purpose for obtaining the data, special purpose studies, or any considerations for the user’s objectives; and it is common practice to increase or reduce significant digits of reported data to be commensurate with these considerations. It is beyond the scope of this standard to consider significant digits used in analysis methods for engineering design.

1.5 *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.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.22 on Soil as a Medium for Plant Growth.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

- D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids
- D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction
- D6026 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data
- E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 For definitions of common technical terms in this standard, refer to Terminology D653.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *loose peat, n*—uncompacted peat in air-dried, granulated or crumb form.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 These test methods consist of either measuring the outer dimensions of compacted peat (Method B) or dividing the particles of uncompacted peat (Method A) by passing them through a 1/2-in. (12.5-mm) sieve and allowing them to fall into a volume-measuring container.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 These test methods are used to quantify the volume of peats under consideration in commercial transactions to determine if the package contains the labeled quantity. As such, material comes into the test area in an “as sold” condition.

NOTE 1—The quality of the result produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it, and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet the criteria of Practice D3740 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with Practice D3740 does not in itself ensure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; Practice D3740

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard