SPECIFICATION

SECTION 6.0: Compost use for Establishment of Planting Beds

6.1 Description

This work shall consist of incorporating compost into soil profile to improve soil quality and plant growth. This specification applies to all types of plantings, including vines, ground covers and flowering plant material.

6.2 Materials

A. Nutrient Grade Compost: Quality compost must be manufactured by a composter enrolled in the **U**nited **S**tates **C**ompost **C**ouncil's (USCC) **S**eal of **T**esting **A**ssurance (STA) Program.

1. Compost must meet following parameters as tested by an STA approved lab using the Test Methods for Evaluating Compost and Compost Manufactures method.

2. Plant Nutrients	%, dry weight basis	TMECC Method
Nitrogen	>1.2	4.02D
Phosphorus	>0.50	Calc.
Potassium	>0.50	Calc
Calcium	>0.90	4.05
Magnesium	>0.20	4.05
Organic Matter Content	>50%	5.07-A
3. Soluble Salts dS/m (mmhos/cm)	<4.0	4.08-A
4. Particle Size % under 9.5 mm	95% or greater	2.02-B
5. Stability Indicator (respirometry)		
CO_2 Evolution mg CO_2-C/g OM/day	<2	5.08-F777
6. Maturity Indicator (bioassay)		
Percent Emergence	85% or greater	5.05-A
Relative Seedling Vigor	85% or greater	
7. Select Pathogens	Pass	Standard
(pass/fail per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR 503.32(a))		Method 9221E

Note: The use of compost will reduce fertilizer requirements. The compost generator shall supply the specifier a nutrient analysis to determine these requirements. Planting bed compost and soil mix for ericaceous plants shall have a pH less than 7.0.

6.3 Construction Requirements

A. Compost shall be applied over planting bed area at an average rate of 2-3 inches and uniformly incorporated within 6-8 inches of the soil profile.
B. Use a higher rate for upgrading marginal soils.

C. Water thoroughly after installation.

6.4 Method of Measurement

A. Compost will be measured by the cubic yard.

6.5 Product Information

A. This specification covers the properties of ERTH Food™ as distributed by: Exceptional Products, Inc, 561 Dogwood Trail, Tyrone, GA 30269, 770-487-6677.

End of Section