

3877 Topsoil Borrow

3877.1 SCOPE

This Specification covers topsoil material used as a medium for establishing and sustaining healthy plant growth.

3877.2 REQUIREMENTS

Topsoil material furnished under this Specification shall be obtained from the soil horizons normally designated as "A" or "B" as defined by the Soil Science Society of America, or shall be obtained from alluvial deposits. The material shall meet the requirements given herein for the several classifications defined.

A Topsoil Borrow

Topsoil borrow for general use as a turf growing medium shall meet the requirements of Table 3877-1:

**TABLE 3877-1
TOPSOIL BORROW REQUIREMENTS**

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Material Passing 2.00 mm (#10) Sieve	85%	--
Clay	5%	30%
Silt	10%	70%
Sand & Gravel	10%	70%
Organic Matter	3%	20%
pH	6.1	7.8

B Select Topsoil Borrow

Select topsoil borrow for use as a plant growing medium in designated areas, such as landscape beds, shall meet the requirements of Table 3877-2:

**TABLE 3877-2
SELECT TOPSOIL BORROW REQUIREMENTS**

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Material Passing 2.00 mm (#10) Sieve	90%	--
Clay	5%	30%
Silt	10%	70%
Sand & Gravel	20%	70%
Organic Matter	3%	20%
pH	6.1	7.5
Extractible Phosphorous	30 kg/hectare (26.8 lbs/acre)	--
Exchangeable Potassium	150 kg/hectare (133.8 lbs/acre)	--
Soluble Salts	--	0.15 siemens/m (1.5 mmho/cm)

C Premium Topsoil Borrow

Premium topsoil borrow for use as a plant growing medium in critical areas and top dressing erosion stabilization mats shall be screened and pulverized and meet the requirements of Table 3877-3:

**TABLE 3877-3
PREMIUM TOPSOIL BORROW REQUIREMENT**

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Material Passing 2.00 mm (#10) Sieve	95%	--
Clay	10%	25%
Silt	25%	60%
Sand & Gravel	25%	60%
Organic Matter	5%	15%
pH	6.0	7.1
Soluble Salts	--	0.15 siemens/m (1.5 mmho/cm)

3877.3 SAMPLING AND TESTING

The Contractor shall submit to the Engineer a list of prospective sources for topsoil borrow at least 1 month prior to time of use to allow adequate time for inspecting, testing, and approving the sources.

Texture of the topsoil shall be classified according to the Engineering definition of particle size. Texture shall be determined by the method described in AASHTO T 88.

The current standard testing procedure of the University of Minnesota, Soil Science Department, Soils Testing Laboratory shall be used for determining pH, percent of organic matter, extractible phosphorous, exchangeable potassium, and soluble salts.