

Topsoil Analysis

What is Topsoil Analysis & The BS3882 Standard?

Topsoil is an important component of any ground work project. From a private garden to a major sporting application it supports the growth of vegetation by providing an anchorage for plants roots, slowly releasing nutrients, providing oxygen and draining away excess water. It also retains moisture to sustain plant growth during dry periods.

The British Standard for topsoil was revised and published in April 2015 and replaced previous versions published in 2007 and 1994. This standard specifies the requirements for topsoil that is moved or traded, for example, in landscaping or remediation projects. **BS3882** is not intended for the grading, classification or standardisation of topsoil that remains in situ.

This Standard provides advice on correct soil sampling, handling, analysis, spreading and drainage. As well as guidance on ensuring soils are fit for use, safe and healthy for humans, vegetation and the broader environment. It also advises on how to avoid soil erosion and weed establishment including the consideration of subsoil.

Topsoil Suppliers

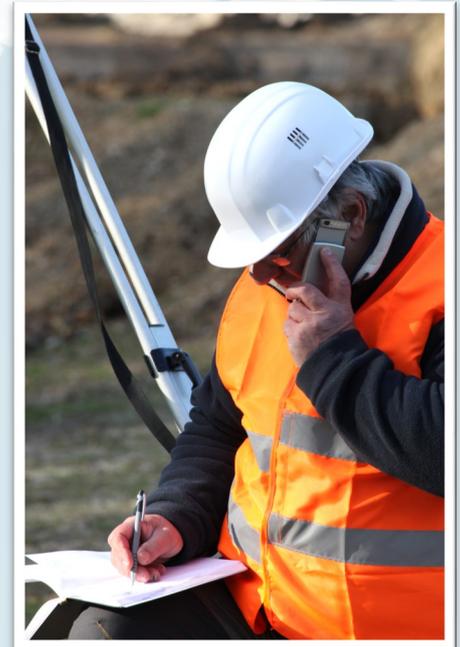
Suppliers are required to provide a declaration of analysis which should include:

- Location of topsoil source.
- Previous and current land use for Natural soils only.
- Date of sampling and analysis.
- Compliant topsoil must be sampled every 5000 cubic meters.
- Test results including Contamination parameters.
- Written Confirmation of compliance with the relevant Topsoil Grade in BS3882.

Topsoil Purchasers

Purchasers should ask their topsoil supplier for a copy of the following:

- BS3882:2015 Declaration of Analysis
- Analysis Certificate
- Sampling Protocol



Topsoil Analysis...

How ELAB Can Help

From our recently updated lab on the South Coast we can provide all the testing needed to give you peace of mind that your topsoil is the quality you need.

A standard Topsoil suite should include the following, however, it can be scheduled with or without PSD testing

Tests	LOD	UKAS	Method
Nickel	5 mg/kg	Y (MCERTS)	BS3882/ICPMS
Copper	5 mg/kg	Y (MCERTS)	BS3882/ICPMS
Zinc	45 mg/kg	Y (MCERTS)	BS3882/ICPMS
pH Value	0.1 Units	Y (MCERTS)	BS3882
Carbonate	0.1 (%)	N	BS3882
Loss on Ignition	0.01%	Y (MCERTS)	BS3882
Nitrogen (Total)	0.1%	N	BS3882
Phosphorus (Extractable)	20 mg/l	N	BS3882/ICPMS
Potassium (Extractable)	20 mg/l	N	BS3882/ICPMS
Magnesium (Extractable)	20 mg/l	N	BS3882/ICPMS
Carbon : Nitrogen Ratio	n/a	N	BS3882
Particle Size Distribution (PSD)	n/a	n/a	Sub-contracted

Logistics

To help you prepare your samples, call and discuss your needs with our Technical team who will provide the appropriate containers in thermally insulated boxes for free transportation to our labs. These can be requested outside of normal working hours via our website using the appropriate form under the Logistics menu.

Free sample collection is also available so don't hesitate to call and book a local collection or National courier service to transport your samples safely and securely for processing. We also provide an online collection request form on our website at www.elab-uk.co.uk, under the Logistics menu so you can place your collection request at your convenience.



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