



HUMUS SCREENING TEST

MODEL STH-1 • CODE 5012

The importance of the organic fraction of the soil in affecting its physical and chemical characteristics and overall productivity is a well established fact. The LaMotte Humus Screening Test provides a quick and reliable means of evaluating the Humus or organic status of a soil and should provide valuable information, when used in conjunction with the tests for mineral elements.

QUANTITY	CONTENTS	CODE
50 g	*Humus Screening Reagent Powder	*5119-H
60 mL	Soil Flocculating Reagent	5643WT-H
120 mL	Deionized Water	5115PT-J
4	Test Tubes, 7 & 14 mL, w/caps	0704
1	Spoon, 0.5 g	0698
1	Filter paper, 50/pk	0465-H
1	Funnel, plastic	0459
1	Soil measure, plastic	0819
1	Humus Color Chart	1384

*WARNING: Reagents marked with an * are considered to be potential health hazards. To view or print a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for these reagents see MSDS CD or our web site. To obtain a printed copy, contact us by e-mail, phone or fax.

To order individual reagents or test kit components, use the specified code number.

PROCEDURE

1. Use the soil measure (0819) to add 2 level measures of soil to a test tube (0704).
2. Fill extraction tube to the 14 mL line with Deionized Water or tap water.
3. Use the 0.5 g spoon (0698) to add 2 level measures of *Humus Screening Reagent Powder (5119) to the soil-water mixture. If necessary, add more water to the tube to bring the level of the solution back up to the 14 mL line.
4. Cap the tube and shake vigorously for one minute.
5. Add 15 drops of Soil Flocculating Reagent (5643). Cap and mix gently. Allow to settle for several minutes.
6. Filter the solution into a second extraction tube as follows:
Fold a sheet of filter paper (0465) in half, forming a semi-circle. Fold in half again to form cone. Opening the filter paper cone, fit it into the funnel (0459) and place the tip of the funnel into an empty extraction tube (0704). Steadying the funnel and filter paper with one hand, slowly pour the solution from Step 5 into the filter paper cone.
7. Hold the tube against the white area of the color chart. Compare the clear filtrate in the second extraction tube to the Humus Color Chart (1384).

INTERPRETATION

The Humus Color Chart (1384) is labeled with values of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The results are interpreted as follows:

HUMUS OR ORGANIC MATTER IN SOIL

Humus Reading	1	2	3	4	5
Agricultural Soils	Low	Medium	High		
Garden-Greenhouse Soils		Low	Medium	High	
Organic Soils			Low	Medium	High

LaMOTTE COMPANY

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PO Box 329 • Chestertown • Maryland • 21620 • USA
800-344-3100 • 410-778-3100 (Outside U.S.A.) • Fax 410-778-6394
Visit us on the web at www.lamotte.com