

English Version

## Soil improvers and growing media - Sampling and sample preparation

Amendements du sol et supports de culture -  
Échantillonnage et préparation de l'échantillon

Bodenverbesserungsmittel und Kultursubstrate -  
Probenahme

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 3 January 2022 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17733:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223 “Soil improvers and growing media”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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## Introduction

Different product functions warrant different product safety, quality and quantity requirements adapted to their different intended uses. EU fertilizing products have therefore been divided into different product function categories (PFCs), which are subject to specific safety, quality and quantity requirements as specified in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [2].

An EU fertilizing product consists solely of component materials complying with the requirements for one or more of the component material categories (CMCs), as specified in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [2].

Some of the standards requested by the standardization request M/564 will rely on the same sampling methods. For ease of reference, to simplify standardization work and to avoid unnecessary repetitions such sampling methods for soil improvers and growing media are referred to in this document. In this way, any standard where sampling is an intermediate step could refer to this document.

## 1 Scope

This document specifies references to methods for sampling of soil improvers and growing media and sample preparation of soil improvers and growing media for subsequent determination of quality and quantity.

This document is applicable to EU fertilizing products classified as PFC 3, PFC 4 and PFC 7 as long as the main function of the EU fertilizing product is classified as PFC 3 or PFC 4, as specified in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [2].

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 12579:2013, *Soil improvers and growing media — Sampling*

EN 13040:2007, *Soil improvers and growing media — Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory compacted bulk density*

CEN/TS 17732:2022, *Soil improvers and growing media — Terminology*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in CEN/TS 17732:2022 apply.

## 4 Sampling and sample preparation

### 4.1 Sampling

Samples taken for quality control purposes shall be representative, as described in EN 12579:2013. EN 12579:2013 specifies methods for sampling solid soil improvers and growing media for subsequent determination of quality and quantity. It outlines the principles to be taken into consideration when taking the sample and ensuring an adequate quantity is available for testing. EN 12579:2013 only applies to material in solid form, including pre-shaped growing media.

For the sampling procedure for liquid products, see 5.11.3 of EN 1482-1:2007.

### 4.2 Sample preparation

Sample preparation shall be carried out in accordance with EN 13040:2007. EN 13040:2007 specifies a routine method for preparing a sample of soil improver or growing medium prior to chemical analysis and physical testing. EN 13040:2007 is not suitable for materials like mineral wool and foam slabs.