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Pre-shaped growing media - Determination of the dimensions and bulk density

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

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ICS 65.080

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 15761

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

January 2026

ICS 65.080

Supersedes EN 15761:2009

English Version

Pre-shaped growing media - Determination of the dimensions and bulk density

Supports de culture préformés - Détermination des dimensions et de la masse volumique apparente

Vorgeformte Kultursubstrate - Bestimmung der Maße und der Schüttdichte

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 December 2025.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Contents		Page
European foreword		3
Introduction		4
1	Scope	5
2	Normative references	5
3	Terms and definitions	5
4	Principle	6
5	Apparatus	6
6	Sampling and sample preparation	7
7	Procedure	7
8	Calculations and expression of results	8
9	Precision	10
10	Test report	10
Annex A (informative) Results of an inter-laboratory trial		11
A.1	Trials	11
A.2	Results	12
Bibliography		13

European foreword

This document (EN 15761:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223 “Soil improvers and growing media”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by July 2026 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by July 2026.

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 supersedes EN 15761:2009.

In comparison with the previous edition, the following technical modifications have been made:

- the text has been editorially revised, no technical changes to the described method itself have been made;
- pre-shaped plugs have been excluded from the scope;
- updated references in Clause 2;
- the terms and definitions are aligned with CEN/TS 17732;
- a dimensional measuring instrument has been added to Clause 5 and 7.3.1;
- Clause 6 on sampling has been added;
- descriptions for other shapes, such as (truncated) conical material and cylindrical material, have been added to the text.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

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

This document has been developed so that there is a standard method to measure and weigh pre-shaped growing media and to calculate the volume and bulk density.

The volume of growing media is a useful attribute for growers and is critical for ensuring plants have sufficient growing media for their root system.

The bulk density is crucial as the reporting of all chemical analyses is expressed in units of mass per volume, and the volume is determined from the mass of the sample used for the chemical analyses.

Pre-shaped growing media are generally made from mineral wool, some are manufactured using polyurethane and others from stabilized organic material. Depending on their field of application they are known by various names:

- pre-shaped "plugs" are small blocks used for seedlings, which are generally cylindrical in shape; once the seed has germinated the seedling in the plug might then be placed into "blocks". Pre-shaped plugs are excluded in the scope of this document;
- pre-shaped "blocks" might have holes to take plugs and can vary in size; they are generally used for propagation purposes;
- pre-shaped "slabs" are used for growing vegetables and range in size.

Annex A contains results of an inter-laboratory trial organized to test the procedures specified in this document.

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of the dimensions and of the bulk density of pre-shaped growing media.

In this document, "pre-shaped growing media":

- includes solid, regular shaped, stable growing media sold, or which are ready for use, as a growing medium, where the dimensions and any corners are stable;
- excludes plugs;

NOTE For the determination of the dimensions and the bulk density of plugs, EN 18250:—¹ applies [1].

- excludes solid growing media that has to be hydrated for it to form, varies in dimension with varying water content – for example, coir or peat slabs or growing bags.

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.

CEN/TS 17732, *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 and the following apply.

3.1

length

l

longer linear dimension of the major surface of the test specimen

3.2

width

w

shorter linear dimension of the major surface of the test specimen measured at right angles to the length

3.3

height

h

linear dimension measured top to bottom

3.4

depth

d

linear dimension measuring how deep recess intrude into the media

¹ Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: prEN 18250:2025.