



Green Industry Soil Definitions by the US Composting Council

BF - BIOFILTER: A pollution control system using organic material (e.g., compost) to capture and biologically degrade storm water pollutants.

BR - BIORETENTION (or rain garden): An engineered soil and plant based system designed to infiltrate, retain and filter storm water runoff to minimize off-site discharges and restore natural site hydrologic function. The engineered soil is often compost-based.

BS - BIOSWALE: A shallow channel designed to convey, slow, infiltrate and filter concentrated storm water runoff, utilizing engineered soils and plants. The engineered soil is often compost-based.

CB - COMPOST BLANKET: A 1 to 3 inch thick application of coarse compost that meets specific particle size specifications, applied evenly across a slope, for temporary or permanent erosion control, with or without vegetation.

CF - COMPOST FILTER BERM: A minimum 2 ft. wide by 1 ft. high barrier of compost that meets particle size specifications, placed perpendicular to sheet flow runoff to control sediment from disturbed soils. The berm is typically triangular or trapezoidal in shape.

CS – COMPOST FILTER SOCK: A three-dimensional tubular sediment control and storm water runoff filtration device used primarily around construction activities and post-construction watershed surfaces; and secondarily to reduce runoff flow velocities on sloped surfaces, channels/swales, and to stabilize embankments with or without hydraulic pressure from streams and concentrated storm water. The filter media is often compost-based.

CA - COMPOST SOIL AMENDMENT: A stabilized product added to soil to improve its physical characteristics, increase organic matter content, reduce storm water runoff, enhance water holding capacity, water absorption and soil ecosystem function.

CW - CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS: An artificial wetland created as a new or restored wildlife habitat, which also serves as a storm water management tool. Constructed wetlands are often designed as complex biofilters to remove sediment and soluble pollutants from point source discharges. Compost is used the primary building block of the wetland media.

ES - ENGINEERED SOILS: A manufactured soil often consisting of sand, gravel, native soil and compost. It is produced using a prescribed ratio of ingredients, making it suitable for a specific application.

GR - GREEN ROOF: A vegetated roof cover which includes a lightweight media, and which may also include high quality water proofing, root repellent system, drainage system, filter cloth. The lightweight media often contains expanded aggregates, soil, and compost.