

Soil improvers and growing media — Determination of plant response

Part 2: Petri dish test using cress

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 16086-2:2011.

BSI, as a member of CEN, is obliged to publish EN 16086-2:2011 as a British Standard. However, attention is drawn to the fact that the UK committee voted against its approval as a European Standard.

The UK committee voted against the publication of this standard because, although the method is interesting for screening materials, the plant species specified for the test are not sensitive to some of the pesticides of greatest concern currently in composted materials, and because it considered that the reproducibility obtained in inter-laboratory evaluation was not an adequate basis on which to establish a reference method. This could cause problems in the event of dispute or litigation.

The standard deviations of reproducibility in the inter-laboratory validation trials of this method were poor and there is a low probability of getting the same result from two laboratories analysing the same sample. In the worst cases the standard deviation of reproducibility exceeded the mean analysis (after rejection of outliers), for example mean germination rate for compost 1 was 22.38 %, S_R 34.66; root length compost 1 0.98, S_R 1.51 cm.

The UK committee advises that this standard will not detect inhibition by residues of some of the herbicides of greatest concern, and that in addition the results are imprecise.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/20, Top soil and other growing media.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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