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Method Summary

Topsoil Coarse Fragment and Visible Contaminants

Scope and Range

This method is used to determine the characteristics of a dried soil by sieving.

The method is not accredited.

References

BS3882:2015 Specifications for topsoil and requirements for use.

BS ISO 11277:2009 Soil quality - determination of particle size distribution in solid material by sieving and sedimentation.

Principle

The stone fraction of a soil is determined using dry sieving.

The soil is characterised, and the individual parts reported as a percentage of the whole sample received. Fragment definitions are as below.

Visible contaminants - Foreign objects discernible by the naked eye.

This includes metal, plastic, treated wood, textile and sharp fragments of glass and ceramic.

Sharp - Inorganic soil contaminant such as a glass fragment, nail or needle that can cause physical injury to the hands of a user of topsoil when handling it without protective gloves.

Coarse fragment - Particle of greater than 2mm diameter that is not a visible contaminant. This is further divided in to fragments of >50mm, >20mm and >2mm.