



## **Request for Proposal for A literature Review of Salt Content in Finished Compost**

### ***Background***

The compost industry has met with resistance to the use of finished compost because of high electrical conductivity (EC) (ie. soluble salts) measurements. Soluble salts are perhaps the most misunderstood element in a compost test data report. Many specifiers assume all soluble salts are harmful to plant growth and that soluble salts in compost directly translates to negative plant response. This leads to compost specifications based on this assumption and results in overly narrow Soluble Salts ranges for compost use.

What is not understood is that soluble salt (or EC) is a total number assigned to an entire category of charged elements found in compost and include parts of the NPK, micro and macro nutrients beneficial, even essential, to plant growth.

### ***Purpose of the Literature Review***

The purpose of the literature review is to gather the available peer reviewed scientific research regarding the salt content of finished composts causing the high EC. The goal is to identify the specific types of salts and whether those salts are beneficial or harmful to plant growth. It expected that the project will identify what is known about salt/high EC and the gaps in the current research.

### ***Proposal Requirements***

Applicants are requested to provide a line item cost by service and a total cost of the services outlined below, including fees and expenses separately.

The proposal should include the following services:

- Costs for gathering the scientific papers
- Cost of writing the literature review
- Cost of writing a factsheet outlining the issue

The results of the study will be hosed on the CCREF's on-line library and the factsheet will be available to the public on its Publications web page.

The budget for the project is \$4,000.00.

The proposal should include a statement of qualifications, references and should include an attachment of previous work similar to this project. The body of the proposal should not exceed 2 pages in length plus the attachment.

All communications should be directed to Al Rattie, CCREF staff at (215) 258-5259 or by email [al.rattie@compostingcouncil.org](mailto:al.rattie@compostingcouncil.org). **Please submit your proposal by end of day October, 16<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm PDT via email and in pdf format. All proposals will be reviewed by the CCREF's Board of Trustees.**