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HOW TO CALCULATE AMOUNTS OF PEAT MOSS, COMPOST AND TOPSOIL TO PURCHASE

For topdressing the lawn with peat moss or bagged compost

Peat moss and bagged compost are usually sold in bags labeled in cubic feet. The following formula is used to calculate the amount or volume of these materials needed to provide a 1/4" cover on overseeded turf areas.

$$V = A_T \times 0.02'$$

Where:

V = volume in cubic feet

A_T = total area to be covered, in square feet

0.02' = foot equivalent of 1/4"

For adding topsoil or compost in bulk to the lawn or landscape

Topsoil and compost purchased in bulk are usually sold by the cubic yard. Use this formula to determine how much of these materials to buy to provide coverage to a desired depth once spread. Note: this also works for mulch.

$$V = A_T \times \text{Depth} \div 27$$

Where:

V = volume in cubic yards

A_T = total area to be covered, in square feet

Depth = desired depth (in feet) of topsoil or compost

27 = to convert cubic feet to cubic yards; 27 cubic feet = 1 cubic yard

Example:

It is desired to add 6" of topsoil to a plot that measures 110 feet x 95 feet.

$$V = A_T \times \text{Depth} \div 27$$

$$V = (110' \times 95') \times (6"/12") \div 27 \text{ cu. ft./cu. yd.}$$

$$V = (110' \times 95') \times 0.5' \div 27 \text{ cu. ft./ u. yd.}$$

$$V = 5,525 \text{ cu. ft.} \div 27 \text{ cu. ft./cu. yd.}$$

$$V = \underline{193.5} \text{ cu. yd.}$$