



Microbial Biomass: Cranfield University



Microbial Biomass: Method

Purpose of this work was to compare freshly despatched product with product that has been in situ for a number of years against a very fertile allotment soil.

Method

- 3X samples from 4 treatments were submitted for analysis

Treatments

- A: L20: Landscape20, BS3882:2015 compliant topsoil sampled at the point of despatch
- B: Hort Loam: BS3882:2015 compliant topsoil, a blend of Landscape20 and greenwaste compost, sampled at the point of despatch
- C: Allotment soil: 20 year old allotment, sandy clay loam soil type that receives an annual application of compost as well as having a cover crops dug into it
- D: Samson: Hort Loam that was placed into planting beds in April 2019. The beds are planted with a range of perennial shrubs and were mulched at the time of planting

Microbial Biomass: Results

- All of the soils are significantly different to each other
- Hort loam has a greater biomass compared to L20. This is probably due to the addition of Green waste compost in Hort Loam It is likely that annual additions of compost and green manures will increase microbial biomass, but please note data is from only one time-point here
- The addition of green waste compost increases the Microbial biomass
- Annual applications of green manures and composts appear to increase the Microbial biomass within a soil
- Over time the Microbial biomass in a soil increases from decaying organic matter
- Decaying organic matter will feed the microorganisms so benefiting microbial biomass

