

# Light Weight Planter Box Mix



The A horizon or lightweight planter box mix is the top layer of the mineral soil horizons, above the B Horizon Planter Box Mix. The Lightweight Planter Mix is excellent for installation into the top 300 – 400 mm of a contained environment such as planter boxes and podiums. It provides great nutrition for continued root growth.

The A Horizon Mix is compared to Leake and Haege (2014) Specification E1: On-Slab Soil Media A-Horizon. We use the standards as a tool and environmental compliant testing. Scapeworks Australia engages 'The Urban Soil Doctor' to undertake in-situ sample collection at the Scapeworks site.

Test Results:

May 2025

Physical Properties		Unit	Target Range	Results
Texture		n/a	Loamy Sand - Sandy Loam	Loamy Sand
Air-Filled Porosity		%	≥ 10	22.7
Water-Holding Capacity		%	≥ 40	45.3
Permeability (16 Drops)		mm/hr	> 100	6237
Organic Matter		% w/w	< 15	21.2
Wettability (AS4419)		min	≤ 2	>2
Large Particles	< 2 mm	% ww	30 - 70	60
	2 - 10 mm		10 - 20	40
	10 - 20 mm		5 - 10	
	20 - 50 mm		< 5	
	> 50 mm		0	0
Chemical Properties		Unit	Target Range	Results
pH in water (1:1:5)		pH units	5.4 - 6.8	7.39
Electrical Conductivity		dS/m	< 2.2	2.14
Chloride		mg/ L	≤ 200	<b>388</b>
Ammonium-N (NH <sub>4</sub> )		mg/ L	≤ 100	1.18
Ammonium-N + Nitrate-N (NH <sub>4</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> )		mg/ L	≥ 50	<b>2.07</b>
Nitrogen Draw-Down Index		-	≥ 0.7	<b>0.08</b>
Toxicity Index		mm	≥ 70	72.8
Phosphorus		mg/ L	8 - 40	24.9
Low Phosphorus - P-Sensitive plant		mg/ L	< 3	<b>24.9</b>
Potassium		mg/ L	50 - 250	322
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )		mg/ L	> 40	13.1
Calcium (Ca)		mg/ L	≥ 80	120
Magnesium (Mg)		mg/ L	≥ 15	34.8
Ca:Mg Ratio		Ratio	1.5 - 10	3.46
K:Mg Ratio		Ratio	1 - 7	<b>11.7</b>
Sodium (Na)		mg/ L	≤ 130	<b>177</b>
Iron (Fe)		mg/ L	≥ 35	<b>24.5</b>
Copper (Cu)		mg/ L	0.4 - 15	0.22
Zinc (Zn)		mg/ L	0.3 - 10	2.83
Manganese (Mn)		mg/ L	1 - 15	8.37
Boron (B)		mg/ L	0.02 - 0.65	0.28
Additional Testing		Units	Target Range	Results
Saturated Density		kg/L	< 2.4	1.18
Dry Bulk Density		Kg/L	No Requirement	0.3
Asbestos			None Detected	None Detected

Polarized Light Microscope and dispersion staining method.



Scapeworks Light Weight Planter Box Mix - A Horizon tests as Grade A soil for unrestricted use. The Urban Soil Doctor (TUSD) was requested by Scapeworks Australia to conduct in-situ sample collection at Scapeworks Australia's yard, also oversees, analyses and reports on products collected.  
Chantal Milner, CPSS Principal Soil Scientist  
BSc Env Sci, PGCert Green Infrastructure, CPSS