

# Questions to Ask Before Buying Topsoil

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Compiled by Kootenai County Master Gardeners

## What Questions Should You Ask the Supplier When You Are Buying Top Soil?

1. Where did it come from? What part of the county? What contractor supplied the top soil? Where does the green material come from? Where does the brown material come from?
2. Does the supplier do any soil tests?
3. Does the supplier add any amendments?
4. Does the soil contain any biosolids?
5. Has the soil had any pesticides applied?
6. Has the soil been screened?
7. Do you give out small samples so the customer can do their own assay test\*?

\*Plant a few bean or pea seeds in a small container to see if the seeds germinate and grow normally. Seeds will not germinate or will have distorted growth if there is herbicide contamination