

# GDT 41

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## A. Scope

For a complete list of GDTs, see the Table of Contents.

Use this test method to determine the moisture content of hay or straw to be used as mulch.

## B. Apparatus

The apparatus consists of the following:

1. Balance: Use a 1.1 lb (500 g) capacity balance sensitive to 0.001 lb (0.5 g) or less .
2. Drying Oven or Stove: Use n oven capable of maintaining a temperature of 230 °F or a stove complete with oven and thermometer.

## C. Sample Size and Preparation

1. Take the sample from the middle of the bale.
2. Cut through the center and take a representative sample from the outside to center of the cut section.

## D. Procedures

1. Cut the sample into short pieces.
2. Weigh a sample of approximately 0.22 lbs (100 g).
3. Place the sample in an oven and dry to a consistent weight. Do not dry over open flame.

## E. Calculations

1. Calculate the moisture content by the following formula:

$$\text{Moisture Content \%} = \frac{A - B}{B}(100) \text{ where}$$

A = wet weight of sample

B = dry weight of sample

## F. Report

Report the moisture content to the nearest 1.0% on the appropriate DOT Form.