

## For Immediate Release

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## IBI Publishes Version 1.1 of the *IBI Biochar Standards*

As part of its process to continually improve and update *The Standardized Product Definition and Product Testing Guidelines for Biochar That Is Used in Soil* (also known as the *IBI Biochar Standards*), IBI has published Version 1.1 of the document to address technical program changes identified by users of the *IBI Biochar Standards*. The primary revisions include a new test method for organic carbon content, removal of the earthworm avoidance test, and inclusion of a new section on the revisions process, in addition to other minor editorial modifications.

The release of Version 1.1 comes one year after publication of the initial version of the *IBI Biochar Standards*. IBI created the *IBI Biochar Standards* in an effort to provide a tool that will help the emerging biochar industry provide certainty to consumers and markets about biochar products. The *IBI Biochar Standards* provide a framework for determining what biochar is—and what it is not—and for demonstrating the safety and efficacy of its use as a soil amendment through a series of tests that determine basic physicochemical properties and the presence of potential toxicants.

The *IBI Biochar Standards* were created over a two-year period through a collaborative and inclusive process led by experts in two global working groups and with input from hundreds of research scientists, entrepreneurs, farmers and other stakeholders from the international biochar community to ensure multiple perspectives on the use and functionality of the tool. IBI members overwhelmingly voted to adopt the *IBI Biochar Standards* after a final balloting period in May 2012.

As a next step in implementation of the *IBI Biochar Standards*, IBI will be launching the *IBI Biochar Certification Program* in the coming weeks. This Program will enable manufacturers whose biochar materials have passed the *IBI Biochar Standards* to apply for certification through IBI, and to place an “IBI Certified Biochar” seal on their product. As a global leader in providing credible, science-based information on biochar, it is IBI’s goal that the seal provide assurances to consumers regarding the safety and efficacy of biochar products. The Program is initially slated for roll-out in the US and Canada before expanding to other countries. An announcement will be made upon launch of the *IBI Biochar Certification Program* in the very near future.

Version 1.1 of the *IBI Biochar Standards* and a Technical Note explaining the change in test method for organic carbon content and the removal of the earthworm avoidance test, as well as FAQs and supporting documents, are all available in the

Downloads section of the *IBI Biochar Standards* webpage:  
<http://www.biochar-international.org/characterizationstandard>

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