## SOIL TESTING LABORATORY MANUAL

Ming Xiao

Copyright © 2009 by Bent Tree Press.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form whatsoever, by photograph or xerography or by any other means, by broadcast or transmission, by translation into any kind of language, nor by recording electronically or otherwise, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in critical articles and reviews.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 1-60250-190-4 978-1-60250-190-4



59 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Suite B284 • Reno, NV 89521 • (800) 970-1883

www.benttreepress.com

Address all correspondence and order information to the above address.

## **Table of Contents**

TEST 1.	Water (Moisture) Content of Soil by Mass
TEST 2.	Particle Size Distribution of Soils – Sieve Analysis
TEST 3.	Particle Size Distribution of Soils – Hydrometer Test13
TEST 4.	Specific Gravity of Soil Solids
TEST 5.	Compaction Test of Soils
<b>TEST</b> 6.	Liquid Limit and Plastic Limit of Soils
TEST 7.	Shrinkage Limit of Cohesive Soils
TEST 8.	Constant Head Permeability Test for Granular Soils
TEST 9.	Falling Head Permeability Test for Fine-Grained Soils
TEST 10.	Consolidation Test Using Incremental Loading
TEST 11.	Direct Shear Test
TEST 12.	Unconfined Compression Test on Cohesive Soils
TEST 13.	Permeability Test Using Flexible Wall Permeameter
TEST 14.	Triaxial Compression Tests (UU, CU, CD)

## **PREFACE**

This laboratory soil testing manual provides a detailed guide of fourteen common laboratory soil tests. The manual follows the ASTM standards published in the 2006 annual book. This manual can be used as a textbook in civil engineering undergraduate program as well as a reference in the geotechnical engineering practice. Each laboratory testing includes a brief introduction of the theoretical background, the applicable ASTM references, the types of soils and other materials needed, specimen preparation, the apparatus and tools needed, test procedure, and detailed data collection process. Each laboratory testing is explained using sufficient photo illustrations and includes detailed sample test results.

The author thanks the support of the Lyles College of Engineering at California State University, Fresno. Appreciation also extends to Stephanie Moffett and Wendy Pauly of Kendall Hunt Publishing, and to Jon Fuller, Publisher of Bent Tree Press, for their suggestions and help in the development of this manual. Clinton Jones, Juan Orozco, Eric Stewards, and Ian Bushell from ELE International provided prompt help on soil testing equipment. The author thanks the assistance and suggestions provided by Nathan Shwiyhat, staff engineer of BSK Associates (Fresno, CA), and Jose Gomez, graduate student at CSU Fresno.

Ming Xiao Fresno, California

March 23, 2011