

Glossary

Absorbance

A measure of the amount of light absorbed by a solution. It is measured by a colorimeter or spectrophotometer. Absorbance values are used to plot the growth of bacteria in suspension cultures and to determine the concentration of molecules in solution.

Acid soils

Soil with a pH less than 7.0.

Gene banks

The place where genetic material (cells, nucleic acids, etc.) is preserved. The main purpose is to conserve the DNA, RNA, genes, genome etc., for research or some other future use.

Landfills

A site where solid waste materials are disposed of on land – supposedly in a manner which prevents their escape into—or pollution of—the surrounding environment. The waste is spread in layers, then compacted to the smallest practical volume and covered with compacted soil at the end of each working day.

Detection limit

Concentration or quantity that is derived from the smallest measure that can be detected with reasonable certainty for a given analytical procedure.