



International
Standard

ISO 17126

**Soil quality — Determination of the
effects of pollutants on soil flora
— Screening test for emergence of
lettuce seedlings (*Lactuca sativa* L.)**

*Qualité du sol — Détermination des effets des polluants sur la
flore du sol — Essai de détection de l'émergence des plantules de
laitue (*Lactuca sativa* L.)*

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Biological characterization*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17126:2005), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the category of test material has been rearranged (soil and other test materials, water-soluble chemical substances, and chemical substances insoluble in water) in [7.1](#);
- the procedure for adding moisturizing water and seeding has been specifically modified in [7.3](#) and [7.5](#);
- the consideration of phytotoxicity signs in control vessels has been added in [Clause 9](#).

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Introduction

For the assessment of the suitability of soil to sustain living organisms, there is a need for simple, rapid, inexpensive biological test methods as a complement to chemical analysis. The method described in this document has been developed for the testing of contaminated soil as well as other contaminated samples. It is cost-effective and can be conducted within a short period of time. Furthermore, the biological material is easily available, the method does not require advanced equipment for measurements or for growing plants, and it can be conducted by any skilled laboratory technician without special training.