

Composting and Yard Waste

In 2003, the EPA estimated that each person in the U.S. contributes 4.5 pounds of garbage (municipal solid waste) daily. That equals 1,642 pounds of garbage per person per year! Much of this waste is organic and could degrade naturally if composted in aerobic conditions, saving space in landfills and reducing greenhouse gasses. Composted organic material can also be used to improve soil for lawns and gardens, further reducing the need for fertilizers. Start reaping the benefits by setting up a backyard compost pile.



Tips for Composting

- There are many different ways to compost: the bin system, tumblers, trench composting, sheet composting, and even vermicomposting (using worms to break down material). Some methods are more simple than others.
- Add kitchen scraps from vegetables, fruits, and coffee to a compost pile. Yard waste such as leaves, lawn clippings, and other materials are also great for composting.
- Do not add pet waste, grease, meat, or dairy products to a compost pile. These items contain bacteria that may be very harmful.

Where To Get Help for composting information

- Composting; http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/Pages/environmental_education.aspx
- How to Make a Compost, a Composting Guide; <http://www.compostguide.com>
- Tips and Techniques for Composting; <http://www.gardenguides.com/how-to/tipstechniques/planning/compost.asp>
- Composting in Your Backyard; http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcs143_023537