

## **Composting**

**Composting is Easy:** It benefits your household, the community, and our environment. Making compost from vegetable and garden waste is simple and convenient. For tips on how to compost refer to [WWW.composting101.com](http://WWW.composting101.com) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=54Ouny77-Sk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54Ouny77-Sk), MD Department of Natural Resources

**Here is How to Get Started:** Composting requires a compost bin outdoors and a receptacle in the kitchen for organic waste that is transferred to the bin. Ideally the bin is a closed 3'X3'X3 container. Most home and garden centers and numerous web sites sell a variety of composting containers for \$100 or less. Composting requires little effort, open the lid (which keeps out the rodents) and dump in the material. Once in the habit, you will be amazed by how easy and gratifying it has become.

**What to Compost** include organic materials such as food scraps (fruit and vegetables), coffee grounds, filters, tea bags, egg shells, and shredded paper. Adding grass clippings and cut up leaves, perhaps a layer of earth and some powdered lime, helps it to “cook”. Do not include animal waste or plants that have been treated with pesticides and/or herbicides. Compost is ready to use when it looks like humus in 3-6 months.

**Composting Saves You Money:** Composting by residents will reduce the amount of trash to be collected. It is estimated that organic waste – food residuals and yard trimmings – can reduce the amount of solid waste by about 27%. Together with recycling, composting can reduce the amount of “trash” by close to 75% thereby reducing costs to residents, the Village, and the community. It will save money on: mulch and pesticides; trash collection time and transportation resources; dumping fees at landfills; and by extending the useful life of critical landfills .

**Composting has Many Benefits:** It benefits the soil by improving drainage and moisture absorption, especially in soils that are otherwise poor quality. This makes growing in various types of soils easier and more productive. Compost also benefits the plant matter grown in the soil by providing nutrients to the plant’s growing area, helps reduce runoff, and minimizes the use of fertilizer.

Composting is good for our environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rotting food generates carbon dioxide. Organic waste-packed landfills generate methane, a greenhouse gas with approximately 23 times the global warming impact of carbon dioxide per liter. If instead it is used to make compost, the CO<sub>2</sub> that is released is offset by the carbon that is retained in a rich organic soil that supports growth of woody and herbaceous plants, which, in turn, sequester carbon and prevent runoff.

Quote from Alice Kinter: *I have kept two compost bins donated by the County going for many years. I have never had to buy commercial fertilizer for my garden or yard. I am not sure why everyone doesn't do this.. ..... I am always showing off my compost. It certainly is easy!!*