

Backyard Composting



What is composting?

Composting is the natural process of decomposition and recycling of organic material into humus-rich soil amendment known as compost.

Why compost?

Compost can save you money by:

- Reducing yard waste hauling fees
- Providing free soil amendments for your lawn and garden
- Retaining soil moisture—save on water bills

Compost can help your garden by:

- Feeding the soil
- Preventing soil erosion
- Improving yields of fruits, vegetables, flower and herbs

Compost can improve our environment by:

- Turning waste into a valuable resource
- Saving limited landfill space
- Recycling nutrients back into the soil

How to compost?

Composting is like cooking, with many recipes and variations.

Here is the basic approach:

1. Collect leaves, grass, and yard clippings.
2. Place in heap or bin.
3. Sprinkle with water to maintain dampness.

For quicker composting (1-3 months):

Alternate layers to mix green (grass clipping, vegetable peels) and brown materials (leaves, straw, and woody materials).

Aerate the pile by turning and poking.

Chop materials into smaller pieces and moisten.

For slower composting (3-6+ months):

Just keep adding materials to your pile or bin. Keep it moist. It's can be that simple.

For more information, contact the DMASWA Education Office at 563-588-7933.