COMPOST WORKS FOR YOU

Not only does composting help the environment, it helps your garden, yard, and house plants too! When compost looks like soil and smells sweet and earthy, it is ready to use. Here are some of the most common ways to use compost:

IN THE GARDEN

Before planting, mix a 4-8 inch layer of compost into nutrient-depleted or poor soils. Mix a 1-3 inch layer of compost into annual garden beds at least once a year. Compost adds nutrients and beneficial microbes, holds water, and improves plant growth.

AROUND THE YARD

Spread a 1-6 inch layer of unfertilized compost on soil as a mulch, or spread a 1-2 inch layer of sifted, weed-seed-free compost on turfgrass as a topdressing. These can be done any time of year to improve soil fertility and reduce watering need.

ON HOUSE PLANTS

Sprinkle a thin layer of compost over house-plant soil to provide nutrients. You can also make a great potting soil by mixing one part compost with two parts sand and/or soil.

DON’T HAVE A GARDEN

You can still make compost and use it on a house plant, give it to a friend, sprinkle it around a street tree, or use it in a community garden.

MORE COMPOSTING BROCHURES

- Worm Composting
- Compost bins – Sources & Designs

COMPOST EDUCATION CENTER

Stop by the Garden for the Environment (GFE) at 7th Avenue and Lawton Street. The center features many different styles of compost bins and instructional signage. Open all daylight hours. Volunteer hours every Wed., from 10 am – 2 pm and Sat. from 10 am – 4 pm.

FREE WORKSHOPS

Sign up for one of our free monthly composting workshops. Call the GFE at 415-731-5627 or become a member of our listserve by e-mailing info@gardenfortheenvironment.org

BOOKS


MORE INFORMATION

The Hotline (415) 731-5627

Garden for the Environment
Office: 451 Hayes Street, SF Ca 94102
(415) 731-5627
Garden: 7th Avenue @ Lawton Street, SF Ca 94122
www.gardenfortheenvironment.org

San Francisco Department of the Environment
11 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 355-3700
www.sfevironment.com

Garden for the Environment is sponsored by the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

Basic
BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Turn your garbage into gold!
It’s easy, it’s smart, it’s recycling.

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is nature’s way of recycling. It is a satisfying way to turn your fruit, vegetable and yard trimmings into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil conditioner.

WHY COMPOST?

- Saves you money by lowering garbage bills and replacing store-bought soil conditioners.
- Helps garden and house plants by improving the fertility and health of your soil.
- Decreases need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Saves water by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water run-off.
- Promotes better air quality by supporting ideal growing conditions for plants thus providing more greenspace, less carbon and a reduction in greenhouse gases.
- Benefits the environment by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the life of our landfill.

THE 4 “R’S” OF THE YARD

- Reduce the amount of yard trimmings you make by planting slow-growing, drought-tolerant plants.
- Recycle yard trimmings by composting (mowing before lawn gets too long, and leaving the clippings on the lawn) and by mulching fallen leaves and clipped prunings (spread them 6 inches deep on paths and around trees and shrubs).
- Recycle remaining yard trimmings by composting. This brochure shows you how.
- Restore the environment with thriving gardens. It all starts at home.

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