

Culverhouse Community Garden Two-part Composting System

Principle: Compost piles are built by combining several organic ingredients – garden debris, horse manure (or other manure from organically fed farm animals currently under consideration by leadership), kitchen scraps. Once compost piles are built, they are turned to mix and aerate. They are kept moist. Microorganisms break down the organic matter.



Part I – Build a Compost Pile

You'll need these components: garden debris, uncooked kitchen scraps, and manure (stable sweepings).



1. Pick an area in one of two designated CCG designated areas big enough to build a pile at least 3 feet high and 4 feet in diameter. Begin layering with weeds/harvest debris.



2. Build the next layer with kitchen parings, coffee grounds, etc.



3. Build the next layer with manure.



4. Repeat layers. Dampen each layer as you build the compost pile.

Part II – Turn Your Compost Pile:

Turn weekly to aerate and speed the breakdown of materials.



1. Move turned material to a new pile (in an adjacent empty area of same size). Yellow flag suggests location.



2. Pull top and side material off the old pile and use for the bottom of the new.



3. Break up clods as you find them.

4. Add the old middle stuff to the new pile.



5. Dampen the pile as you go.

When most of the material in the pile is decomposed, the compost is ready. Throw uncomposted material into your new collection of garden weeds and debris.

Find a friend to build a Compost Pile! Two people can make a bigger pile. The bigger the pile, the hotter it gets. Under ideal conditions the temperature in a compost pile can reach 140 to 160 degrees F, which is effective in killing most weed seeds and pathogens. With less heat, the compost process will still occur, although more slowly, and maybe less completely. Use our new compost thermometer to measure your compost pile's core temperature.

HELPFUL PEOPLE: Marcia Freeman*, Tom Hopp*, Doro Domeika*, Ricardo Ferrer*, John Jirkofsky, or any gardener who knows how the process works. *These people can help you select a site in the proper composting areas.