



BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Composting your organic 'trash' not only is a great way to fertilize your garden, trees and shrubs, but it also eliminates it from going to the landfill. It's part of the re-use, reduce and recycle. Composting improves structure, texture and aerates the soil in your garden. In dry soil it helps break up the dense soil, allowing plant

roots to thrive. Composting also provides the needed nutrients for the microorganisms that keep soil healthy and balanced. Composting adds nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus to the soil eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers. Composting is easy, so give it a try this spring with all your spring clean up scraps.

COMPOSTING 101

HOW TO COMPOST:

Creating a compost pile or bin in your backyard is easy. Composting requires three elements:

- 1) Brown (carbon) material: leaves, branches, twigs
- 2) Green (nitrogenous) material: grass, food waste, coffee grinds
- 3) Water



Too much of one or the other will result in slowed composting or slimy, smelly compost. Ideally your compost pile should have equal amounts of green and brown material and should be layered, alternating the brown and green material. The brown material provides carbon and the green adds nitrogen and the water helps break down the organic material. The microorganisms in compost need both carbon and nitrogen to thrive. Carbon for energy and nitrogen for protein synthesis.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING:

- 1) Select a dry, shady spot near a water source
- 2) Make sure any yard trimmings are chopped or shredded
- 3) Lay down a 6-inch layer of brown material
- 4) Lay down a 3-inch layer of green material and a little bit of soil or compost
- 5) Lightly mix the two layers
- 6) Top with a 3-inch layer of brown material
- 7) Add water until moist
- 8) Turn the pile every week or two to aerate and distribute moisture
- 9) Your compost will be ready in 1 to 4 months
- 10) Add to your fruit and veggie garden, till into soil around plants and shrubs

CCD will observe the following holidays:

Memorial Day:
Monday, May 30th

4th of July:
Monday, July 4th

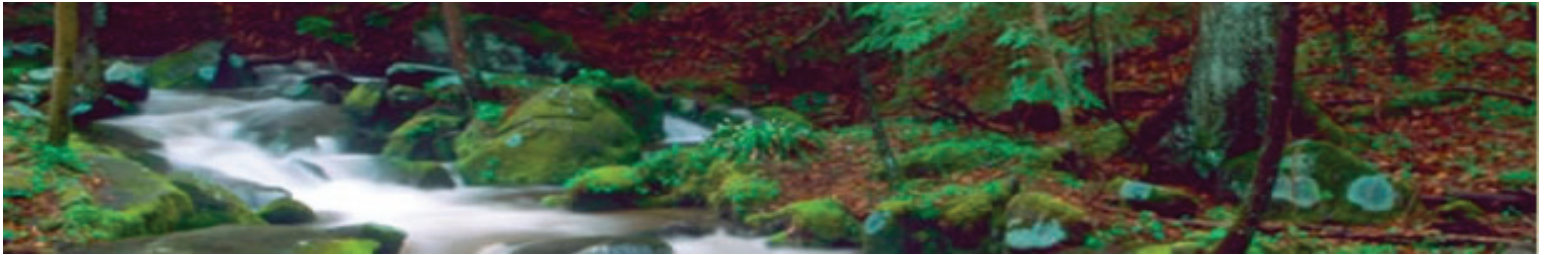
All collection will be delayed one day after these holidays.

Hailey Organic Spring Clean Up:
May 21st, 9am to 3pm

Hailey will host an organic spring clean up for residents that live within the Hailey city limits. Bring any yard waste or trimmings to the Hailey Park 'n' Ride on the corner of Bullion and River Street. Any branches must be cut down to 3' lengths. Also, please no trash or food waste.

Recycle Bins

Recycle bins are available for sale. The 12 gallon "stackable" bins are \$10.60 each and the 18 gallon recycle bins are \$16.30 each.



COMPOSTING 101 *(continued)*

WHAT TO COMPOST:

Manure, cardboard rolls, clean paper, coffee grounds and paper filters, cotton rags, dryer and vacuum cleaner lint, eggshells, fireplace ashes (cooled), fruit and vegetables, grass clippings, hair and fur, hay and straw, houseplants, leaves, nut shells, saw dust, shredded paper, tea bags, wood chips, wool rags and yard trimmings.



WORM COMPOSTING:

Worms eat a variety of organic materials such as dead grass and leaves. There are microscopic organisms that live on the leaves. These organisms provide the worms with a variety of algae, fungi and bacteria that are vital to the worms diet. It passes through the worm and comes out as "worm casts". The worm casts are very beneficial to your plants. Worms also aerate soil or compost, accelerating the composting process and adding "air" to the roots for you plants.

Add worms to your compost pile or bin to add nutrient rich worm castings and air to help speed up composting process. You can dig up worms from your yard or buy them.



WHAT NOT TO COMPOST AND WHY:

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| 1) Black walnut tree leaves and twigs: It releases substances that may harm your plants | 5) Dairy: Smelly and attracts pests to your compost pile |
| 2) Coal or Charcoal ash: May harm plants | 6) Meat or fish: Attracts pests to your compost pile |
| 3) Fat, grease, lard or oil: Attracts pests to your compost pile | 7) Pet waste: Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens and viruses |
| 4) Diseased plants or leaves: Will be transported to your healthy plants | 8) Chemically treated yard trimmings: Chemicals may kill the beneficial organisms in soil and compost |

ECO-TIPS

Save old egg cartons from going to the landfill!

- 1) Cut up and use each individual cell for starting your seeds indoors. Just put the whole cell and seedling into the ground (of course don't use the plastic cartons!). The carton will naturally break down in the soil.
- 2) Collect and give them to local egg farmers to reuse them.
- 3) Save them for fun art projects with your kids.