

- Presentation will begin shortly
- Session will be recorded
- All attendees are muted
- Please be aware of Q&A at bottom of screen – ask your questions there
- We will address questions at various points in the session

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- September 10: Going Electric in Chula Vista
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SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

Compost 101

August 27th, 2020







All attendees are muted Please type your questions in the question box



Compost 101 & other best practices for your garden

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City of Chula Vista's

Backyard Composting Program

Workshops

Compost bins(CV residents)

Master ComposterTraining





Living Coast Discovery Center

- A non-profit organization that inspires the community to connect with and care for our coastal environment
- Temporarily closed to public-virtual programs and private tours
- ► 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2pm-Backyard Composting Workshop through Zoom







What we will cover today:

- Benefits of composting
- Composting methods
- Using compost in your gardens

Composting

- ► FBI (fungus, bacteria, invertebrates)
- "Controlled" decomposition
- Why: Improve soil / reduce trash
- ► How:
 - Space
 - Materials
 - Effort

Compost Happens!

► Take food → put it in a pile → make soil.







Benefits of using compost

Improve physical structure

- Benefits both clay and sandy soils
- Reduces runoff
- Improves water retention
- Improves aeration
- Provides excellent growing conditions for many varieties of plants
- Increased biodiversity

Improves Plant Health

- Nutrient release over time
- pH buffer
- Healthy plants are more resistant to pests and disease



Traditional Composting

- What is so hot?
 - Aerobic bacteria:90°-150°F
- Who should use this method?
 - Backyard space
 - ► Large amounts of organic material



Parameters Traditional Composting

Greens= Nitrogen

 Fruits, vegetables, grass clippings and other plant trimmings, manure, pasta, bread, tea bags, used coffee grounds

Browns= Carbon

 Dried leaves, straw, twigs, sawdust, ground brush, wood chips, shredded paper, napkins, paper plates

Air and Water

- Aerobic bacteria produce energy, grow quickly, and consume material
- Turn your pile and mix in browns
- Moisture test
- ▶ 50% Greens :50% Browns









How To Build and Maintain a Hot Pile

- Dampen browns and alternate
 3 in. layers of greens and browns
- Mix layers slightly
- Keep it fluffy! Don't compress your layers
- Add a dry layer of brown on top to maintain moisture, reduce odors, and keep away flies
- Turn and mix compost with a pitchfork. Add new material towards the center of the pile.





City Requirements

- ▶ Odors
 - Neighbors
 - >6 feet from entrances

<5 feet tall, <6 feet wide, <6 feet long</p>

Compost "Tumblers"

- Enclosed unit with spinning ability
- \$\$ High moisture Lower temps
- Daily turning can be heavy



- Small yard/food waste
- Similar to hot composting method

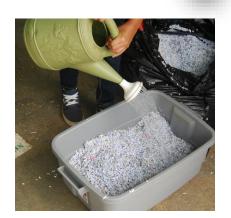




Vermicomposting

- "Cool" Composting method- No turning needed
- High nutrient compost
- Food waste and shredded paper only
- Apartments or those with limited space
- How do I do it?
 - Red Wrigglers
 - Storage bin
 - ► Cool, damp, and dark









Composting for the less motivated

- "Dig and drop"
- ► Households with small or large yards
- ▶ No browns, no turning
- ▶ Lift the lid, put food scraps in, close lid.







Composting for the less motivated

- ► 5-gallon bucket
- Drill holes
- ▶ Dig a hole
- Bury bucket

Add vegetative food waste





When is Compost Done?

- Screening
 - Material decomposition rate varies
 - Return unfinished materials back into pile
 - Cure your compost before applying
- Compost tea
 - ► A little compost goes a long way
 - ► Liquid fertilizer for plant roots
 - ► Natural insect repellant





How to Make Compost Tea

- Place dechlorinated water in bucket
- Collect 2-3 cups of compost or worm castings and make a "tea bag"
- Submerge compost into water with air pump
- Stir occasionally and brew for 24-48 hours
- Dilute tea 1:1 and apply to plants within 24-48 hours of brewing







Compost application



- New garden or vegetable garden
 - ~20 30%
- Established gardens
 - Apply as a mulch

Compost or Mulch?





Chula Vista Residents only! One load per household.





Saturday, August 29 8 am - 12 pm · Otay Landfill

Customer Convenience Area • 1700 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista

Load your own - while supplies last!

Bring buckets, containers, shovels, and tarps.

Living Coast Compost Programs

- Register for a Zoom Backyard Compost Workshop!
 - https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvfuuhrjgrGNPU6YPU nJam6kx2taaj8R0s
- Check out the Living Coast's pre-recorded workshops series for more detailed explanations of composting!
 - https://www.facebook.com/watch/106857986009/502403 367307016

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjPYUZVA9EBuGU WJFQ-ruFqS6qc5IZm0N







Questions?

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