



Composting

THE LIFECYCLE OF FARM TO SCHOOL TRAINING SERIES



ICE BREAKER

PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY



<https://forms.gle/euTBcmtGjsPHZwyp8>

To view survey on smart phone: open camera app, focus your screen on the QR Code to scan it. You will see a pop-up notification to view the QR Code details.



ACTION PLAN

- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/composting-action-plan.docx>

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the benefits of using compost in the school garden.
- Address the impacts of composting on the environment for sustainability.
- Identify the steps of composting.
- Understand the optimal conditions and systems for composting.
- Identify partners with composting in the school (i.e., environmental and sustainability clubs, custodial staff, building and grounds staff).
- Choose how to engage in composting at your school.





BENEFITS TO COMPOSTING

- Converts a school's food scraps and yard waste into natural fertilizer that can then be added to school gardens and lawns.
- Enriches soil, helps retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Provides opportunities for hands-on learning activities (i.e., waste audits, measuring compost variables, compost experiments, provides a collaboration between food service and other departments).
- Diverts waste from the landfill and prevents the production of methane gas.

WHY COMPOST?



WHY COMPOST? FOR GOOD SOIL STEWARDSHIP

- Soil building
 - Texture for good aeration and drainage
 - Nutrient density and diversity
 - Varied Nutrient release
- Replenishing nutrient extractions
- Nutrition Dense Foods- Taste the difference! Feel the difference!



INTRODUCTION TO COMPOSTING



<https://youtu.be/5miq5cnUqig>



COMPOSTING SYSTEMS



COMPOST DIGESTER

Food Waste



Finished Product

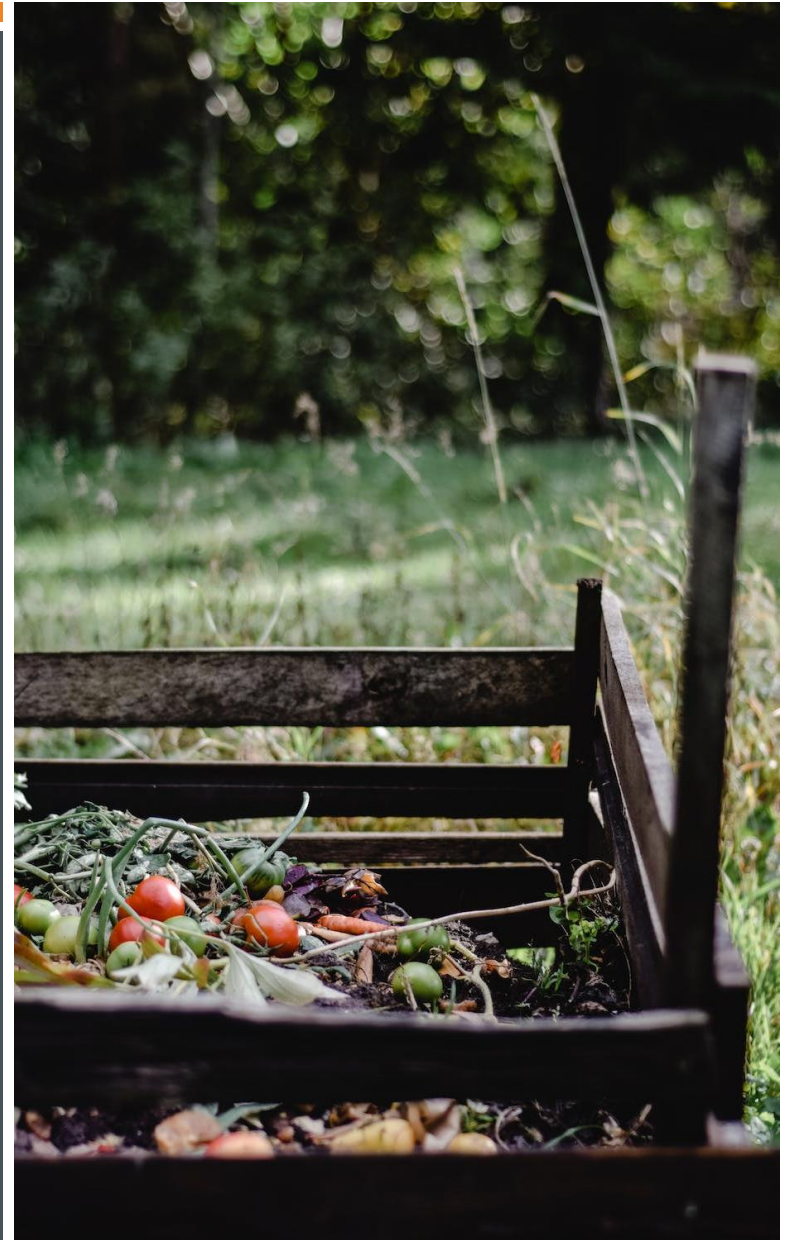




COMPOST DIGESTER



PILE/BIN COMPOSTING





BIN COMPOSTING

- Great option for beginners and for small spaces.
- Enclosed and holds the organic material until it breaks down enough to be used as compost.
- Can use multiple bins at multiple locations.



PILE COMPOSTING

- Open mound or pile of compostable materials that is layered with “brown” material.
- Minimal cost to building pile.
- Need larger space for pile and a way to cover to keep critters away.

VERMICOMPOSTING



VERMICOMPOSTING



https://youtu.be/VD_dlpf1Zkl

VERMICULTURE

- Conditions
- Feeding
- Timeline
- Classroom Cooperation
- Use of Worm Castings
(Compost!)



COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING



COMMERCIAL COMPOSTERS & COMPOST SERVICES



- <https://www.litterless.com/where-to-compost/wisconsin>

HOW TO USE COMPOST



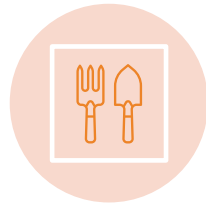
INCORPORATING COMPOST: SOIL BUILDING



ADD GENEROUS AMOUNT
TO ALL SOIL TYPES. EXTRA
TO CLAY AND SANDY
SOILS.



INCORPORATE WITH
TILLAGE EQUIPMENT



REPEAT AS OFTEN AS
AFTER EACH CROP OR AS
SUPPLY AND TIME
ALLOWS.



SIDE AND TOP DRESSING WITH COMPOST

- 4-6 inches deep on top of the garden bed
- A cup or so in transplant holes (depending on the size and type of the plant)
- Prior to planting, or a week or two after transplanting, every 3 months.



COMPOST TEA: LIQUID APPLICATION

The benefits of compost tea are numerous and powerful in an organic garden:

- Provide an inexpensive/free high-quality organic liquid fertilizer and increase microbial activity in the soil and/or on leaf surfaces:
 - Foliar spray
 - Drench
- Improve nutrient availability in the soil and provide essential minerals to plants to:
 - Increase vigor, size, growth and flavor of vegetables
 - Improve resistance to pest and disease
- Fun to make! Engaging for students!

How to Make: <https://www.wildabundance.net/blog/compost-tea-recipe/>



GROUP DISCUSSION-ACTION PLAN



How would composting benefit your school?



What composting system would work best for your school?



How will you collect the compostable materials?

GROUP DISCUSSION-ACTION PLAN



What materials are needed to create your composting system?



Who can help you in your composting efforts?

POST- WORKSHOP SURVEY



<https://forms.gle/yf62Ea9xvy7JdALP7>

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CREDITS

- University of North Carolina of Extension Homegrown Video: Worms Can Recycle Your Garbage (Vermicomposting)
- Cornell Waste Management Institute: School Composting - Let's Get Growing! (2017)
- Recycling Connections, Stevens Point, WI: used as location for composting video



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