

## Backyard Composting and Vermicomposting Resources and Links

This resource comes from the US Composting Council (USCC) who recognize that composting is occurring at a variety of different levels across the US; from the homeowners composting some leaves and food scraps in their back yards, to the commercial facilities composting 1000s of cubic yards per year. It's all good and it's all part of our national composting infrastructure.

This reference source of information is for the smaller, 'backyard' compost producer. USCC searched the annals of available information on this topic and have listed links to those sites which provide useful and practical information on backyard composting, vermicomposting and some items on Master Gardener programs.

### USEPA

This is a great place to begin your search for information. It's an introductory explanation on creating a compost pile in your backyard or indoors, depending on space: <http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>

This link builds on the basics provided above and focuses on backyard composting: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/backyard-composting>

This link examines the basics of composting with worms, or vermicomposting: <http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/types-composting-and-understanding-process#vermi>

### CALIFORNIA

CalRecycle (formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board) produced this 27 page booklet containing a set of do-it-yourself compost bin designs for both backyard composting and vermicomposting. It contains detailed information on materials, tools and composting bin design: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Organics/44295054.pdf>

City of San Jose, California

San Jose is very active in recycling and composting. Their website provides information and links to backyard composting, vermicomposting and master gardener programs. Their main page is: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1510>

### COLORADO

The Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Master Gardener site has a variety of downloadable fact sheets and Q&A sections on compost production, structures, use and gardening at: <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/?target=publications>

### FLORIDA

This is Florida's Backyard Composting Tutorial and Information Website. It's a wealth of information and instructions on the science and practical application of backyard composting. There are many links contained within this site:

<http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/compost-info/>

### HAWAII

It's important to recognize how widespread composting is, even in paradise! The cooperative extension service at the University of Hawaii publishes this brief, but helpful pamphlet on the topic:

<http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/HG-41.pdf>

A 20 page booklet covering a variety of gardening and recycling topics can be found at: [http://cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/news/backyard\\_conservation.pdf](http://cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/news/backyard_conservation.pdf)

### IOWA

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is the state agency responsible for recycling, composting and mulching. They have several publications available for downloading

at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/CompostingOrganics.aspx/>.

#### LOUISIANA

The Louisiana State University Ag Center provides a 20 page handbook, 'Backyard Composting – Waste to Resource' on their site

at: [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/publications/publications\\_catalog/lawn%20and%20garden/backyard%20composting](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/publications/publications_catalog/lawn%20and%20garden/backyard%20composting)

There's also a 2 page troubleshooting guide available

at: <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/BCC96EDA-75F7-4F08-9C81-1ADA8C167D49/2182/pub2517compost2.pdf>

#### MAINE

The Maine State Planning Office is tasked with assisting municipalities (and residents) in their efforts to improve recycling and composting performance. They provide detailed booklets on yard and food waste composting and a downloadable PDF on

vermicomposting: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/sustainability/compost/index.html>.

They also provide links for more information on a variety of composting related topics: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/sustainability/compost/index.html>

#### MICHIGAN

Washtenaw County provides information on composting hows and whys, including equipment and bins, as well as a Master Composter program. Check out their program [here](#).

#### MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota Extension Service has material on-line regarding soil health and backyard composting:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/soils/> They also have a well established Master Gardener program.

#### MISSOURI

The University of Missouri provides very easy to follow directions on building compost bins of various construction, as well as links to backyard compost production

at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G6957>

The Missouri Department of natural resources also provides information and PDF downloads on all things composting at: <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/composting/>

#### MONTANA

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality provides downloadable PDFs on home composting and also a few links to other sites at: <http://deq.mt.gov/Land/Recycle/Compostingnew>

#### NEW JERSEY

This is the Rutgers University site. It contains 3 very useful, downloadable PDFs on Backyard Leaf Composting, Home Composting and

Vermicomposting: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/search.asp?cat=5&searchstring=backyard+composting&submit=Go%21>

They also have information on Master Gardeners at: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/mastergardeners/>

#### NEW MEXICO

The Bernalillo County (NM) Extension Master Composters have been educating local citizens on the science, art, materials, methods and benefits of home composting in the desert. You are welcome to visit our website: [www.nmcomposters.org](http://www.nmcomposters.org)

#### NEW YORK

The Cornell Waste Management Institute operates this website. It contains a variety of different links to educational resources aimed at both people interested in composting at their homes, schools, or business and others who want to promote small scale composting: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/smallscale.htm>

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

This is the website of the North Carolina Composting Association, a state affiliate of the USCC. It contains links to backyard and to vermicomposting information, as well as links to other related sites. The backyard composting link is: <http://carolinacompost.com/>

The vermicomposting link is: <http://www.carolinacompost.com/vermicomposting>

#### **OHIO**

The Ohio State University maintains a Composting at Home fact sheet that reviews the basics of compost bin design and composting practices. It is: [www.therockpile.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/OhioStateFact-Composting.pdf](http://www.therockpile.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/OhioStateFact-Composting.pdf). Their home page containing links to facts sheets and other composting topics is: <https://www.osu.edu/>

#### **OREGON**

The University of Oregon maintains this very diverse site that contains information and links to a variety of resources both within their site and across the nation: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~recycle/Composting.htm>

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) offers a multi-page 'booklet' to composting grass, leaves and other organics generated in the home, as well as providing some links to other resources: [www.proprecycles.org/](http://www.proprecycles.org/)

Rick Stehouwer, Ph.D. from Penn State University's Environmental Science and Research program in the College of Agriculture, has created an excellent PowerPoint presentation on composting. Go to this website and then click on Composting is Recycling Naturally to review and download: [http://backyardcompost.cas.psu.edu/howiscompostmade/how\\_is\\_compost\\_made.html](http://backyardcompost.cas.psu.edu/howiscompostmade/how_is_compost_made.html)

#### **TEXAS**

The Texas A&M University system maintains this site which contain links and PDF downloads and brief videos on a variety of composting related topics including backyard and vermicomposting, soil sampling and general gardening issues: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/ot\\_soilcompost.htm](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/ot_soilcompost.htm)

#### **WASHINGTON**

The Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service maintains a very helpful website containing information on backyard and kitchen waste composting, compost uses and composting health and safety issues at: [www.csanr.wsu.edu/compost/](http://www.csanr.wsu.edu/compost/)

#### **OTHER**

There are an almost limitless number of company and private composting sites that are easy to find on the internet. We have listed above only those sites affiliated with universities, professional organizations and those that are affiliated with state or municipalities, that provide impartial information. There are a few private sites, however, that are worth visiting:

This long-time website provides unbiased information on a variety of composting topics including processes, equipment, vermicomposting and much more: <http://www.mastercomposter.com/>

This relatively new site is a very good compilation from a variety of sources, including a link to National Geographic's Green Guide Video on home composting: <http://www.improvenet.com/a/guide-to-composting-at-home>