

Composting Solutions for Yard Waste

Stop! Before you dump your fall leaves or grass clippings down the storm drain or in the nearest stream, consider this environmentally friendly idea. Start a compost pile or bin. Composting is a simple, economical way to recycle your household scraps and yard trimmings into a nutritious meal for all of your plantings, not to mention all of the beneficial insects and microorganisms that will feast on it.

Composting makes sense, because it keeps useful organic materials from filling up the local landfill. In some states, it is now against the law to put organic materials in the landfill, since they are relatively clean and biodegradable, and take up needed space. Another reason to compost is the reward of having a free soil enhancement, which can be used on your landscape, garden or shared with your neighbor.

All organic materials decompose. Composting hastens the process by providing an ideal environment for bacteria and other decomposers to thrive. These microorganisms need four elements to do their work: These elements are nitrogen, moisture, carbon, and oxygen. For the best results, mix high-nitrogen materials like clover and fresh grass clippings with high-carbon materials like dried leaves and twigs. Adding wood chips to branches and twigs allows more oxygen to get into the pile and adds a nice fragrance. If you have more woody materials than green materials, you can add a

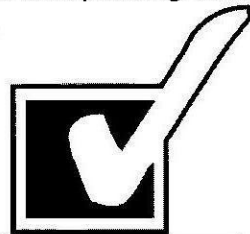
little nitrogen, in the form of lawn fertilizer, to balance the nitrogen-carbon ratio. Rainwater provides moisture, or you can water and cover the pile with a tarp, to keep it moist, if rainfall is in short supply. Turning and mixing the pile lets the oxygen in.

To begin, you can use a simple pile, a barrel or bin, or you can build a frame from old

lumber, bricks, and chicken wire, so there is a minimal expense involved. There are also a variety of composting bins available at your local hardware or lawn and garden store or via the internet. If you prefer, composting can be done inside your garage or shed.

There are two methods of composting: cold composting and hot composting.

Summit SWCD Voting Procedures



Summit County residents attending our annual meeting this year will be able to participate in the annual supervisor election.

Upon arrival at the breakfast meeting on November 19, 2008, (see article on page one for full details on the meeting) attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the election registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, obtain a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth, where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

This year's meeting will commence at 8:45 a.m. with a full breakfast buffet. Registration and voting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 9:30 a.m.

This year we have three very qualified candidates running to fill two positions on the Board of Supervisors. Running as the incumbents are Dave Whited, Chief of Planning & Development for the Metro Parks Serving Summit County and Craig Graf an owner-operator of Graf Growers, a family owned vegetable farm and greenhouse operation in Copley. Also running for the board of supervisors is Chris Brown of Reminderville. Chris is the Director of Land Development and Acquisition for Hudson-based Prestige Homes. Additional biographical information for each candidate will be available at the Annual Meeting.

County residents and landowners who cannot attend the Annual Meeting have two other options for voting for SWCD board members. They may call or stop by the district office to request an absentee ballot or they can cast their vote at the office, during regular business hours and between the dates of October 29th and November 18th. Voting ends on November 18th at 12:00 noon.

If you would like more information regarding these proceedings, please contact our office at (330) 929-2871.

