



Why Compost?

<p>Reduce Greenhouse Gases</p> <p>67% of all the methane generated in Metro Vancouver comes from landfills.</p> <p>Diverting organics from the landfill reduces methane emissions.</p>	<p>STOP Soil Loss</p> <p>The Earth annually loses 75-100 GigaTonnes of arable topsoil.</p> <p>Composting returns nutrients back into soils.</p>	<p>Save Water</p> <p>Organic matter retains 18-20 times its weight in water.</p> <p>1% organic matter in the top 6" of soil can hold 27,000 gallons of water per acre.</p>
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Sources

Questions and Answers for Residents. Metro Vancouver <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/food-scraps-recycling/residents/questions-answers/Pages/default.aspx>

Human Health, the Nutritional Quality of Harvested Food and Sustainable Food Systems. Nutrition Security Institute http://www.nutritionsecurity.org/PDF/NSI_White%20Paper_Web.pdf

Soil Health Key Points. United States of Agriculture. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1082147.pdf

Composting Stats

<p>Households that practice composting across Canada:</p> <p>1994: 38%</p> <p>2011: 61%</p>	<p>There are over 162 composting facilities in Canada as of 2014.</p>	<p>Compostable organics made up 36.2% of municipal solid waste by weight in Metro Vancouver in 2013.</p>
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Sources

Composting by households in Canada. Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/16-002-x/2013001/article/11848-eng.pdf>

2013 Solid Waste Composition Monitoring Program. Metro Vancouver http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/2013_Waste_Composition_Report.pdf

Clean Energy Fund: Urban Renewal Bioenergy Production. Harvest Power <http://www.harvestpower.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Harvest-Fraser-Richmond-Organics-CEF-Outreach-Report-EN.pdf>

Types of Composting

<p>BACKYARD</p> <p>1 MONTH: How long it takes to make immature compost in a backyard composter.</p> <p>It takes six months to one year for it to fully cure.</p>	<p>HOT COMPOSTING</p> <p>1m³</p> <p>55°C</p> <p>The critical VOLUME and TEMPERATURE for a hot compost pile.</p>	<p>BOKASHI</p> <p>2 WEEKS: Time it takes for this anaerobic process to produce a fermented product.</p> <p>You can plant in it directly 2-4 weeks after it has been dug into the soil.</p>
<p>VERMICOMPOSTING</p> <p>Red wigglers are the composting worm of choice as they prefer living in crowded conditions.</p> <p>Vancouver residents can register to receive a worm kit and workshop from the Compost Demonstration Garden.</p>	<p>IN-VESSEL</p> <p>24 HOURS: How long it takes for some in-vessel systems to produce unfinished compost.</p> <p>The curing process takes around 3-4 weeks.</p>	

Sources

Factsheet Series - Hot Composting. Compost Education Centre. <http://compost.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/4-Hot-Composting.pdf>

25 Questions and Answers about Composting. Compost Council of Canada. <http://www.compost.org/English/qna.html#section10>

Worm Composting. City Farmer <http://www.cityfarmer.info/wormcomposting/>

On-site Composting Technology Review. Metro Vancouver <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/MV-ON-SITECOMPOSTINGTECHNOLOGYREVIEWOct2012.pdf>

Try Bokashi Composting. The Compost Gardener. <http://www.the-compost-gardener.com/bokashi-composting.html>

Compost Tips

<p>Build Diversity</p> <p>One spoon of healthy garden soil has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * BILLIONS of bacteria * Several yards of fungal filaments * THOUSANDS of protozoa * Lots of nematodes. <p>Feed the soil and the plants will grow.</p>	<p>Ways to Use Compost</p> <p>Soil amendment (Turned into the soil)</p> <p>Top dressing or mulch (On top to be absorbed over time)</p> <p>One inch (or 2 cm) of finished compost can kickstart a garden.</p>	<p>Remember the Ratios!</p> <p>Finished Compost has a Carbon to Nitrogen ratios 12:1-20:1.</p> <p>The right mix of browns (carbon) and greens (nitrogen) will ensure a smooth composting process.</p>
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Sources

The secret life of soil. Oregon State University. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/secret-life-soil-0>

Compost - What Is It? California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/CompostMulch/Composts.htm>

The Secret to Successful Living. Compost Council of Canada <http://www.compost.org/English/healthysoilPR.html>