

# Compost Presentation Notes

## Composting: The Basics

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- I. What is Compost?
  - A. Decomposed organic matter
  - B. Managed to grow beneficial microbes, concentrate nutrients, and build humus
- II. Benefits of Compost
  - A. Better soil structure
  - B. Increased water holding capacity
  - C. Improved soil aeration
  - D. Nutrients when plants need them
  - E. Plant growth stimulant
  - F. Beneficial microbes
  - G. Other uses
    1. Compost tea
    2. Potting mix ingredient
- III. How to Compost
  - A. Correct C:N, 25:1-35:1
  - B. Adequate moisture: 50-60%
  - C. Adequate aeration
  - D. Small particle size
  - E. Time: 3-12 months
  - F. Compost Stages
    1. Mesophilic, 50-113°F
    2. Thermophilic, 113-158°F
    3. Curing, below 113°F
- IV. Structures
  - A. Free-standing windrow
  - B. Enclosed bin
- V. Organic Regulation
  - A. Records
  - B. Initial C:N, 25:1-40:1
  - C. Temperature of 131-170°F
    1. 3 days in aerated static pile
    2. 15 days in windrow turned 5x
  - D. Plant-based compost is exempt

COMPOST FEEDSTOCKS	
Material	C/N
<b>Crop Residues, Fruit/Vegetable Waste</b>	
Coffee grounds	20
Corn cobs	98
Corn stalks	60-73
Cull potatoes	18
Fruit wastes	20-49
Potato tops	25
Rice hulls	113-1120
Soybean meal	4-6
Tomato processing waste	11
Vegetable wastes	11-13
<b>Straw, Hay, Silage</b>	
Corn silage	38-43
Hay, legume	15-19
Hay, non-legume	32
Straw, oat	48-98
Straw, wheat	100-150
<b>Manures</b>	
Broiler litter	12-15
Cattle	11-30
Dairy	13-18
Horse	22-50
Laying hens	3-10
Sheep	13-20
Swine	9-19
Turkey litter	16
<b>Yard and Municipal Waste</b>	
Bark, hardwoods	116-436
Bark, softwoods	131-1285
Cardboard, corrugated	563
Grass clippings	9-25
Leaves	40-80
Newsprint	398-852
Sawdust	200-750
Woodchips, hardwood	451-819
Woodchips, softwood	212-1313