

We're on a mission to cultivate community health through agriculture, access and affordability

# COMPOSTING

### at York Fresh Food Farms

York Fresh Food Farms composts vegetable and other organic waste to use as soil enrichment.
Our flail mower chops up spent plant material into mulch to make healthier soil for future crops.

York Fresh Food Farms' composting project is funded by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Healing the Planet Grant Program with

support from The GIANT Company.

#### **THANK YOU!**

York Fresh Food Farms is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. 150 Willis Road, York, PA 17404

We always need volunteers. We welcome donations of any amount. To arrange a farm visit call 717.515.4799

#### Questions?

Visit our website at www.yorkfreshfoodfarms.org, on Facebook or email us at yorkfreshproduce@gmail.com





## HOW TO COMPOST

- Start preparing to compost by collecting materials: brown materials (carbon or carbohydrate-rich) like twigs, dried leaves, straw, pine needles, non-waxed/ non-glossy cardboard, newsprint and green material (rich in nitrogen) like grass clippings, vegetable, fruit scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells.
- What not to compost: animal fat, bones or meat, grease or oil, dairy products, human or pet waste, coal or charcoal ash, weed seeds, diseased plant material.
- Find a dry, shady spot near a water source. Add your green and brown materials in alternating layers 2" to 4" thick.
- The optimum size for a compost pile is 3 cu ft. and not larger than 5 cu ft. Make sure to keep the pile moist (but not wet).
- Every couple of weeks, mix your compost pile with a shovel to help ensure that the air is evenly distributed throughout the pile.
- As bacteria and insects begin to break down the compost, the pile will get warm and may even let off some steam.
  - Over time, the material will become dark in color with no visible signs of the large pieces of waste material you started with.
- When compost is ready to use, it will be dark and crumbly and look like dirt. Now you're ready to use it in the garden or in your potted plants.

Source: https://pelacase.com/blogs/news/composting-for-beginners

