

Backyard

COMPOSTING

Instructional Brochure



Outdoor Bin Supplies

- Three (3) 50 to 80 gallon barrels
Must be dark—black, blue, green
- 16 feet of hardware cloth and two t-posts for leaf bin
- Mulched leaves
- Compost aerator
- Pitch fork
- 1 1/4" forstner bit/drill, sawzall, to prep bins.

Prepping and Feeding Your Bins

1. Cut off the bottom of your barrel or trash can. Drill 1 1/4" holes in your barrels in an even pattern. The first bin will have the most holes, the third bin the least.
2. Set up your leaf bin in a large circle close to where you will be placing your barrels.
3. Place your barrels in a row from most holes to least.
4. Place a layer of leaves in the bottom of your first barrel. Add kitchen food waste and worms from indoor bin.
5. For about three months, continue to add alternating layers of food waste and mulched leaves. Add water if necessary to keep moist.
6. Pull the barrel off of the compost pile and transfer the pile into the second barrel. This mixture will continue to be processed by the worms and will need to be watered regularly. It should be moist and crumbly.
7. Re-start with barrel one, layering leaves and food waste. Add more

worms after transfer to barrel two. Once barrel one is full the second time (approx. three more months), transfer contents of barrel two to barrel three and contents from barrel one to barrel two. Start barrel one again for the third time. After three more months (about 9 months total), you will have all three barrels in progress.



Feeding your Worms

- **Fruit:** apples pears, banana peels, strawberries, peaches and all melons
- **Vegetables:** Beans, cabbage, celery, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, all greens, corn, corncobs and squash.
- **Additional Items:** Coffee filter paper, tea bags, crushed eggshells, dead flowers, and small amounts of bread, cereal, and grains.
- **Do Not Feed:** Meats, poultry, fish, dairy, junk food, oils, candy, oranges, lemons, limes and shiny or coated paper, grass clippings, weeds.

Location & Temperature

- The bins should be where it is shaded about 60% of the time and sunny about 40% of the time. A hose or other water source should be readily available.
- The worms like their home to be a bit moist and at 55 – 77 degrees. Keep a cover over the tops of the barrels to encourage the worms to go to the top. Black plastic works well.

Maintenance & Harvest

1. About once a week, turn your bin(s) with a compost aerator.
2. When bin 3 has processed for three months, you can harvest. Work the rich mixture into your garden, or mix with top soil for container plants. A general rule of thumb is 1 part castings to 4 parts soil. Soil test kits are available to purchase so you can tailor your soil mix for specific use.
3. Worm castings can be stored in a dry place for use any time.

Sustainable Living Center

Address: 500 Tausick Way

Walla Walla, WA 99362

Phone: 509.524.5218 • Fax: 509.524.5209

Email: info@sustainablelivingcenter.com

Website: www.sustainablelivingcenter.com



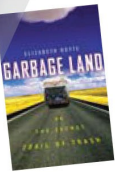
THE SUSTAINABLE LIVING CENTER ASKS YOU TO PLEASE...

COMPOST

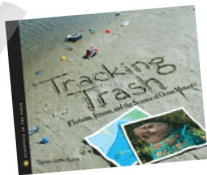
WANT TO LEARN MORE?



BACKYARD COMPOSTING
BY HARMONIOUS TECHNOLOGIES
A start-up guide to composting



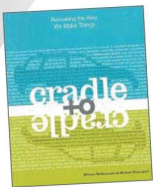
GARBAGELAND
BY ELIZABETH ROYTE
One woman's journey to follow her household waste stream



TRACKING TRASH: FLOTSAM, JETSAM, AND THE SCIENCE OF OCEAN MOTION (SCIENTISTS IN THE FIELD)
BY LOREE GRIFFIN BURNS
The impact of our debris on marine life



HIGH TECH TRASH: DIGITAL DEVICES, HIDDEN TOXICS, AND HUMAN HEALTH
BY ELIZABETH GROSSMAN
The impact of high-tech waste



CRADLE TO CRADLE: REMAKING THE WAY WE MAKE THINGS
BY WILLIAM MCDONOUGH M BRAUNGART
The manifesto of a new approach to "eco-effectiveness":
designing from the ground up for eco-safety and cost efficiency

