



GO GREEN ORILLIA

Composting is the best thing you can do for your lawn, garden and for the environment! Composting can be done year round and can decrease your garbage by 30%.

10 EASY STEPS TO COMPOSTING

1. Pick up a composter bin at a garden centre or at Orillia's Waste Diversion Site located at the end of Kitchener Street, where they are only \$25.00 (Orillia residents only.)
2. Put your bin close enough that you won't have too far to travel
3. Place your bin on level ground with good drainage. A sunny spot will speed up the process, but is not essential.
4. Have a container ready in the kitchen for when you are chopping vegetables and peeling fruit. Use it to transport the contents to the composter.
5. Store fall leaves near your bin to cover food scrap in the composter throughout the year.
6. Add both nitrogen-rich green materials (e.g. food scraps) and carbon-rich brown materials (leaves). Two parts green and one part brown.
7. To compost in the shortest possible time, cut or chop your fruits and vegetables into small pieces.
8. Sprinkle an activator on the pile to speed up decomposition-examples include bone meal, coffee grinds and manure.
9. Add water so compost is always moist.
10. Stir pile occasionally (every two or three weeks). This speeds up the composting process and minimizes odors.

COMPOST THESE ITEMS

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Coffee Grinds and Filters
- Tea Bags
- Bread
- Flowers/Weeds
- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Pasta and Rice
- Straw and Hay
- Soil
- Egg Shells (crushed)

DO NOT COMPOST THESE ITEMS

- Meat Products
- Dairy Products
- Oil or Fat
- Cat or Dog Waste

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT COMPOST

- Spread finished compost evenly over your lawn. It is a natural fertilizer and is good for the soil.
- Dig it into your vegetable garden. You will have great vegetables.
- Flowers love compost.
- Make compost tea. Steep a shovel full of compost in a 5 gallon bucket for a few days. Pour on plants.

THE CITY OF ORILLIA'S WEEKLY GREEN BIN/YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM NOW RUNS YEAR-ROUND! NO GARBAGE TAG IS REQUIRED.

ORGANIC LAWN CARE CALENDAR Adapted from the City of Toronto

Provided by the City of Orillia Environmental Advisory Committee

EARLY SPRING	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair areas of winterkill, but avoid working on a wet lawn Rake lawn to remove debris and brown patches Apply organic soil amendments, top-dress and overseed Monitor for weeds and spot hand-weed Sharpen mower blade Raise mower height to 7.5 cm (3") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize after first burst of grass growth Going natural for the first time, aerate the lawn Identify weeds, hand-weed as necessary Cut lawn before weeds go to seed Monitor for grub activity in dead patches where grass is easily pulled up Repair areas of grub damage and ensure proper cultural practices are followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dormant lawns may naturally turn brown Avoid cutting lawn during drought and keep foot traffic off lawn Apply liquid kelp to help manage summer stress Water grass every 2 to 3 weeks during an extended drought Check for chinch bug damage, repair, and ensure proper cultural practices are followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseed entire lawn Repair damaged areas with a seed blend high in endophytic grass seed Monitor for insect damage when the lawn greens up with fall rains Aerate in combination with seeding or topdressing Apply nematodes if grub damage hasn't been managed with cultural practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply final late-fall fertilization to prepare grass for next spring Clean and winterize lawn equipment Leave mulched leaves on lawn with mulched clippings from final cut

