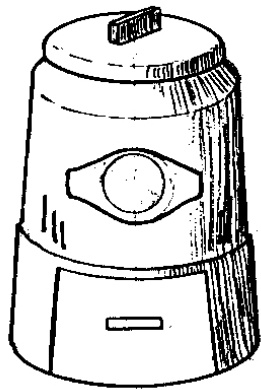


Advantages of Backyard Composting

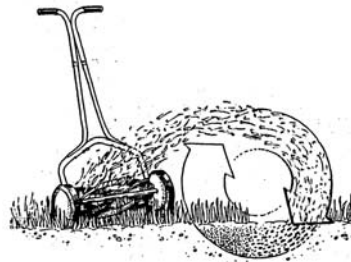


- Can be done year round.
- Fresh compost is available quickly and easily.
- Teaches your children the importance of recycling and replenishing the earth.
- Decreases your garbage by 30%, a great advantage with Orillia's garbage tag program. Backyard composting will ensure that you even have extra tags.
- Makes you feel good because you have done something for the planet.

Winter Composting

You can still backyard compost during winter months; however, there is another option. The City of Orillia collects compostable kitchen/yard waste weekly all year right at your curb.

Grasscycling



This is the practice of leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings are up to 85% water so they decompose quickly and add nitrogen back into your lawn. Tips include use a mulching mower, keep your mower blade sharp, cut the grass when it is dry, and set your mower at the proper height (2.5" – 3", or about 7 cm high). Don't spend your summer raking and bagging.

Still need help? Contact the Waste Management Advisory Committee

Phone: 329-2452 Fax: 326-1339

E-Mail: wmac@bellnet.ca



Compliments of:
City of Orillia
Waste Management Advisory
Committee

___ % Recycled Content

Backyard Composting



It's the best thing you can do for your garden ... and the environment.

10 Easy Steps to Composting

1. Pick up a composter bin at a garden centre or at Orillia's Waste Diversion Site (landfill) 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 (especially in winter).
3. Place your bin on level ground with good drainage. A sunny spot will speed up the composting 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 scraps in the composter throughout the year, particularly if your composter develops odour problems. You can also cover with soil.
6. Add both nitrogen-rich green materials (e.g., food scraps) and carbon-rich brown materials (e.g., brown leaves). **Remember: two parts green and one part brown.**
7. To compost in the shortest possible time, cut or chop your fruits and vegetable into smaller pieces.
8. Sprinkle an activator (extremely high in nitrogen) on the pile to speed up decomposition. Examples include bone meal, coffee grinds and manure.
9. Add water so compost is always moist (like a wrung-out sponge).
10. Stir pile occasionally (every two or three weeks). This speeds up the composting process and minimizes odours.

If you follow the steps above, your compost may be ready within two months. Otherwise, it can take up to two years. You'll know that the compost is ready to be used when it is dark in colour, crumbly and has an "earthy" smell.

What Do I Do With All That Compost? It's as easy as 1-2-3-4-5



1. Spread finished compost evenly over your lawn. It's natural fertilizer and is good for the soil
2. Dig it into your vegetable garden. You will have great vegetables.
3. Flowers love compost.
4. Make compost tea. Steep a shovel full of compost in a 20 litre (5-gallon) bucket for a few days. Pour on plants.
5. Still too much compost? Give it to your neighbours and friends.

Compost This!



Fruits, vegetables & their peels

Coffee grinds & filters

Tea bags

Bread

Flowers/Weeds

Grass clippings

Leaves

Pasta & rice (cooked or uncooked)

Straw & hay

Soil

Egg shells (crushed)

Manure from your hamster or rat

Do Not Compost These!

Meat/Dairy products

Oil or Fat

Cat or dog waste