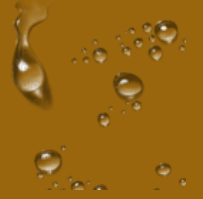




COMPOSTING

Saving Water Starts with a Healthy Soil



A beautiful technique landscape starts with healthy soil. Soil rich in organic matter and a balance of sand, silt, and clay provides plants with the nutrients they need and also reduces the need for water.

Heavy clay soil absorbs water slowly, leading to runoff, while sandy soils have poor water and nutrient retention. Adding organic matter such as compost to poor or compacted soils will reduce watering requirements by loosening clay soils and helping retain moisture.

Who lives in the Compost Pile?

Decomposers break down materials and release energy back into the environment where it can be reused again. Some, like worms, sowbugs, earwigs, and fungi are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. Other decomposers, like microbes, can be seen with a microscope!



CREATE YOUR OWN COMPOST

The best way to improve your soil is by adding compost. You can create your own compost pile by alternating layers of "green" material rich in nitrogen and "brown" material rich in carbon. Keep the pile moist and periodically turn it to keep the soil microbes that break down the compost additives happy and healthy!



Check out the 3 ways we recycle compost here in The People's Garden!

What can you compost?

Brown Materials:

- Dry Leaves
- Wood Chips
- Shredded Paper
- Cardboard
- Straw
- Bread

Green Materials:

- Kitchen Scraps, Egg Shells
- Fruit & Vegetable Leftovers
- Coffee Grounds
- Grass Clippings
- Garden Waste
- Weeds

Do NOT Compost:

- Meat, Fish, Bones
- Fats, Oils, Dairy
- Dog, Cat Waste
- Diseased Plants
- Herbicide Treated Clippings

