

## **Backyard Composting**

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So many of us enjoy some sort of gardening and amidst this time of uncertainty, more than ever long time as well as new gardeners are finding solace and rejuvenation in digging in the dirt and nurturing a seed or plant to become a source of food for our own or the communities consumption as well as that of insects, birds, and wildlife that continue to reveal their beauty during this challenging time.

Composting for your yard and garden can help bring health to your plants and landscape and can be used in place of more expensive mulches in a very inexpensively or almost free way! Compost is made when bacteria consume and break down organic wastes. Most all organic wastes can be composted: kitchen scraps, cardboard, wood chips, sawdust, lawn trimmings, leaves and straw. A combination of the above will compost more quickly. DON'T compost: pet waste or kitty litter (contain pathogens), bones, meat (attract animals), and diseased or invasive plants as well as weeds that have gone to seed.

Compost is a combination of what are called brown ingredients that are high in carbon such as leaves, straw, paper, woodchips, sawdust, corn stalks and green ingredients which are high in nitrogen, which are food scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds and rotted manure. The ideal ratio is 30 parts brown to 1part green, but like any recipe it surely doesn't need to be exact! Many of those that compost, such as myself, just throw a little brown and a little green and give it a stir once in a while.

It is recommended that your compost pile be 3x3x3x in order for it to generate enough heat to break down the materials. Some just use a pile, but there are bins that can be made with wood and/or wire and commercial composters, that can most effective at keeping critters out.

There are many reasons why landfilling or incinerating kitchen waste is a problem. There is the environmental impact that food waste in the landfill creates methane gas. The financial cost is that food waste is heavy and the disposal that the town pays for waste is paid by weight. Then there is the moral implication, that we know there are better ways to handle our excess food then having it end up in the landfill and composting our waste can be a place to start.

The Frankestown Conservation Committee, Solid Waste Committee (Transfer Station/Recycling) and Garden Club were scheduled to hold a Backyard Composting program in April. But as with so many activities, we have had to postpone the program to a future date. In the meantime, we have written this article to help provide a brief introduction to composting and a link that you can access for more information. We are also including a link to view the items that are for sale: compost bins, buckets, turners and rain barrels. These items can be dropped off or picked up. Please contact Kelly Marshall at 603-547-2160 or [kellnh@comcast.net](mailto:kellnh@comcast.net) to make

arrangements or if you have any questions. Checks should be made out to the Frankestown Conservation Commission. We are also planning to have the items available for sale at the Frankestown Farmers Market in June.

For more detailed information the article, "Composting for the Home Gardener" can be found at: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/composting-home-gardener-fact-sheet>

The description and pricing (actual cost) of compost bins, buckets, turners and rain barrels can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the following website:

<https://nrra.net/wp-content/uploads/2019-Compost-Bin-Sale-Participation-Packet.pdf>

## COMPOST BINS

In 2016 more than, 30% of waste sent to landfills consisted of food and yard waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The use of backyard composting systems by residents can divert this waste and help residents benefit from fresh compost.



- Easy snap together assembly
- Twist locking lid
- Harvest door, for easy compost removal
- Vertical and horizontal ventilation
- User guide, harvest door, lid and screws included
- BPA free
- UV stabilizer is added to resist deterioration from sunlight
- Made from recycled content
- 10 year warranty
- Unit dimensions when assembled: 33" diameter by 33" high
- Weight: 15 lbs.
- Volume: 10.5 cubic feet (80 gallons or 300 liters)

**\$ 58 each (sell for \$ 63 and make \$ 5 ea.)**

## COMPOST TURNERS

Turns compost without resorting to the traditional back-breaking job of removing and reloading by shovel or pitchfork. Simply plunge the tuner into the compost pile; as it is withdrawn, the heavy-duty blades open to aerate and turn the compost. The long handled turner is designed to aerate compost in the Earth Machine.



- Designed for use with the Earth Machine
- Long, comfort grip handle for easy aerating
- Easy to clean
- 34" long
- Sturdy, professional quality
- Slender design makes for easy storage

**\$ 26 each (sell for \$ 28 and make \$ 2 ea.)**

## KITCHEN PAILS

The kitchen collector is designed for convenient kitchen food scrap collection and is a mess-free, odor free and easy-to-use food scrap pail that is easily transported from the counter to your outdoor organic collection or compost bin. Snap lid with double rim minimizes odors.



- Compact design fits in cabinet, under sink or on counter top
- Volume: 2 gallons or 7.20 liters
- Unit dimensions 8.7" diameter by 8.5" high
- Weight: 1.1 lbs.
- Easy-tilt handle for one-hand transport
  - Hinged lid for easy opening
  - Dishwasher safe
  - BPA free
  - Made from recycled content

**\$ 10 each (sell for \$ 12 and make \$ 2 ea.)**

## RAIN BARRELS

Conserve municipal water supply and cut household water bills by up to 40% with backyard rain barrels. Rain water, free from chlorine and water treatment chemicals, is an excellent water source for lawns, plants and gardens.



- Mosquito mesh keeps bugs and leaves out
- Overflow hose can be linked to another SYSTEM or can be directed away from house
- Contoured spigot
- Easily accommodates existing downspouts
- BPA free
- UV stabilizer is added to resist deterioration from sunlight
- Made from recycled content
- Unit dimensions 26" diameter by 34" high
- Weight: 16 lbs.
- Volume: 55 gallons or 208 liters
- 5 year warranty

**\$ 65 each (sell for \$ 70 and make \$ 5 ea.)**

**15 rain barrels/pallet – cost for 1 pallet = \$ 975**