



OSU Agricultural Composting Workshop

Day 1	Title	Description
8:30	Registration	
9:00	Welcome and introductions Coffee and refreshments provided	Orientation to facilities; review agenda and learning objectives; provide handouts; form work groups
9:30	The composting process	Stages of composting; composting methods; composting parameters (temperature, moisture, C/N ratio, pH, micro-organisms, etc.); what should I compost?
10:30	BREAK	
10:45	Locating and designing an agricultural composting facility	Space needed; logistics and product flow; pads and bases; covers; environmental considerations; feedstock, active composting and curing areas
11:15	Feedstock characteristics and building a compost pile	Types of feedstock; what should I compost?; particle size and grinding; compost recipes; moisture; aeration; C/N ratio; pH; salt; WSU compost calculator
12:00	Work group exercise: develop a mix	Describe available feedstock; demonstrate and hand out WSU compost calculators
12:30	LUNCH	
1:30	Go to compost facility	Introduction to NWREC composting facility; safety and facilities; explain afternoon exercises and record keeping
1:50	Rotating stations (30 min each)	Measuring bulk density
2:20		Estimating water content
2:50		Monitoring temperature
3:20	Build piles	Show feedstock; equipment and materials
5:00	ADJOURN	Calibration homework and bring compost samples next week

Day 2	Title	Description
9:00	Welcome back (coffee and refreshments provided)	Introduce today's agenda
9:10	Equipment for agricultural composting	Review composting methods with focus on equipment; scale and equipment investment; hand tools; front end loaders; windrow turners; aerated static piles; hybrid systems; monitoring equipment; grinders; screens; field application equipment
9:40	DEQ Regulations and Managing Environmental Risk	Objectives of regulations; new regulatory process and fees; risk criteria; siting a facility; examples to illustrate risk criteria; environmental controls for low and high risk sites
10:20	BREAK	
10:35	Aerated static piles	Benefits and limitations of ASPs; set-up; power and air flow requirements; insulation and PFRP (NOP compliance)
11:10	Monitoring the process and testing the end product	Compost volumes and weights and reduction during composting; temperatures and PFRP; EC; pH; nutrient value; stability; respiration and other biological assessments; weed seeds; contaminants (i.e. Stinger); record keeping
11:40	Compost quality and using compost	Evaluating compost quality for different uses; mulch, soil amendments and fertilizers; potting media; agronomic rates; application rates; long-term nutrient release and soil quality benefits; evaluating economics of composting
12:30	LUNCH	
1:30	Introduce afternoon activities	
1:40	Testing compost (greenhouse)	pH; EC; maturity (Solvita, respiration, visual assessment); nutrient test results
2:30	Evaluate your own piles	Leave piles intact and consider: temperature; volume; moisture; odor
3:00	Group evaluation of piles	Tear apart piles for more thorough evaluation
4:00	Calibration and compost application	Review calibration homework; depth of application; demonstrate of a 10 ton/ac (?) application
4:30	Grinding	Demonstrate hammer mill for grinding feedstock and finished compost (pros and cons)
5:00	Evaluations	
5:10	ADJOURN	