Compost Checklist

Created: 5/15/2012

# Tasks:

☐ **Compost OK:**

☐ **Leaves and twigs**

☐ **Yard trimmings and grass clippings**

☐ **Houseplants**

☐ **Wood chips**

☐ **Hay and straw**

☐ **Sawdust**

☐ **Fruits and vegetables**

☐ **Eggshells and nutshells**

☐ **Tea bags, coffee grounds and filters**

☐ **Animal manure (from horses or cows only)**

☐ **Hair and fur**

☐ **Cardboard rolls**

☐ **Shredded newspaper**

☐ **Dryer lint and vacum lint**

☐ **Cotton and wool rags**

☐ **Fireplace ashes**

☐ **Compost No-No's**

☐ **Yard trimmings treated with pesticides**

☐ **Dairy products**

☐ **Meat or fish bones or scraps**

☐ **Fats, oils, grease or lard**

☐ **Pet Feces (from dogs, cats, or other pets)**

☐ **Black walnut tree leaves or twigs**

*Black walnut trees release a substance during decomposition that may be harmful to other organisms.*

☐ **Coal or charcoal ash**

☐ **Compost Completed!**

☐ **Your compost pile is done when all compost material is a uniform, crumbly product that emits an earthy aroma.**

☐ **Casual composting.**

*Your pile could be "done" anywhere from 2 months to a year*

☐ **Gourmet composing**

*Your pile could be "done" in about 2-4 months.*

☐ **Any larger wood chunks can be filtered out and put back into a new pile.**

☐ **Compost Composition**

☐ **Browns.**

*Includes dead leaves, animal manure, branches and twigs*

☐ **Greens.**

*Includes grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and tea bags*

☐ **Water.**

*Your compost pile should always be moist! A dry compost pile is sick! Hydrate it!*

☐ **Composting Techniques**

☐ **Casual vs "Gourmet" composting**

*Casual takes longer, but is easier to manage and the pile will not get as hot.*

☐ **There are a variety of options you have in composting within both the casual and gourmet techniques**

*Research in order to find the method that works best for you.*

☐ **Tools You'll Need:**

☐ **Water hose with an adjustable spray head**

☐ **Pitchfork.**

*They're not just for farmers anymore!*

☐ **Shovel**

☐ **Rake (optional)**

☐ **Casual Compost Option:**

☐ **Pick a place for your pile**

*It should be a dry, shady area near a water source.*

☐ **Add browns and greens as you collect them**

*Ensure larger pieces are chopped or shredded first.*

☐ **Dampen dry materials as you add them.**

*Make sure your pile is moist!*

☐ **After your compost pile has been created, mix green waste and grass clippings into the pile**

☐ **Bury fruit and vegetable scraps under 10 inches of compost material**

☐ **When the substance at the bottom of the pile is dark and rich in color, your compost pile is ready to use!**