

Washtenaw County's MASTER COMPOSTER COURSE

c/o AAPS Rec & Ed - Fall 2019

FINAL June 12, 2019

Do you want to transform yard debris and kitchen scraps into a nutrient-rich, natural soil amendment? Identify your own soil profile? Learn hot composting techniques? Create low-maintenance, low-waste yards? Tour large- and small-scale compost operations? Know how to compost with red worms? Make compost teas? Use cover crops, green manures and living mulch? These topics--and more--are offered by a range of presenters. Michigan Master Composter certification is available for students who pass the take-home exam and complete at least 10 volunteer hours in the community. Students may fulfill some or all of these hours by participating in the optional Saturday Composting Practicum.

This Michigan Master Composter class is offered by: **Project Grow Community Gardens** and **Washtenaw County Public Works** through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Rec & Ed program. All teachers are certified Master Composters.

Class registration is posted online at www.a2schools.org/reced; search on "Master Composter." The fall AAPS Rec & Ed courses are available online late August 2019

7-week workshop – Wednesdays, Sept. 25 to Nov. 6, 2019 (Cost \$59)

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Pioneer High School (Rec and Ed Dept.-Large Conference Room) 1515 S. 7th St., Ann Arbor 48103.

****One class is held off-site at Project Grow's Compost Education Center (CEC) at Leslie Science & Nature Center, Ann Arbor.***

*****There is an optional field trip to a City of Ann Arbor "WeCare Organics" operation located at 4150 Platt Rd on Wednesday, Oct 9, Noon-1:30 pm, weather permitting*****

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1-September 25, 2019 Compost Basics; bin overview (Nancy Stone & Lisa Perschke, Advanced Master Gardener)

Class 2- October 2, 2019 *Hot Composting, Cover Crops and Tour of **Project Grow's Compost Education Center (CEC) at the Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, 48105**. Meet at the Project Grow demonstration area. **Dress for outdoor demonstrations** before indoor class. (Joet Reoma, Master Gardener & Master Rain Gardener)

****Optional CEC Practicum: Every Saturday, October 5 till November 9, 2019 (10 am to 12pm) Leslie Nature & Science Center. Students earn volunteer hours towards Master Composter Certification at Project Grow's Compost Education Center. The CEC Practicum includes the practice of hot composting, comfrey green manure processing, cover crops cultivation and maintaining a large in-ground vermiculture bin. If interested, please RSVP weekly to joet@projectrowgardens.org***

*****OPTIONAL Compost Tour*** On Wednesday, October 9, 2019 (12:00-1:30pm) 90-minute tour of large-scale City of Ann Arbor **WeCare Organics** composting operations, weather permitting, **City of Ann Arbor 4150 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor 48108** (Donald Butynski, Michigan Operations Manager, Denali/ Ann Arbor Compost Facility). Please RSVP by email to Donald.butynski@denaliwater.com or phone 734.489.4518.

Course description continued, see next page

Class 3-October 9, 2019 Yard Waste Reduction, trench & pit composting, leaf mulching. **Dress for outdoor demonstrations** before indoor class. (*Chris Simmons, City of Ypsilanti*)

Class 4-October 16, 2019 Vermiculture (worms), Special Composting, Compost Teas (*Jesse Raudenbush, Master Gardener, owner of [Starr Valley Farms](#)*)

Class 5-October 23, 2019 Soil Health – How it effects your garden and you. What’s all the talk about soil Health? Gardening can be tough, but gardening in unhealthy soils makes it tougher. This session will cover the basics of soil health. What it is, how to recognize it, its benefits, and how to change it (positively and negatively). The challenges of poor soils, including in urban environments will be discussed. (Dr. Dean Baas, MSU Sustainable Agriculture extension and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Coordinator for the state of Michigan.)

Class 6- October 30, 2019 Worm Bin Workshop; hands-on session to build your own red-wiggler worm bin. (*Jesse Raudenbush*) *It is recommended that all students attend this workshop (no charge).*

*Please pre-register in-class if you are interested in purchasing “your own worm bin materials” for \$35 (includes 1000 red worms, worm bedding, bin screen; drill provided). **Bring your own Rubbermaid-style 18-gallon storage bin with lid for class.***

Class 7-November 6, 2019 Guest Presenters with volunteer composting opportunities, take-home exam corrected. Students share ideas for volunteer projects, discuss date/topic for fall 2020 graduation dinner. Washtenaw County and Project Grow recognizes and awards outstanding Master Composter’s projects at an annual Washtenaw County Environmental Excellence Partnership Program. (*Lisa Perschke, with guest presenters*)

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