



Composter's Delight

Posted by Stephanie • June 9th, 2010

Composting News

Following a great guest post about composting, there is big local news about composting!

Lebanon, Ohio based Marvin's Organic Gardens has partnered with Future Organics, Inc. to receive food and plant waste for composting from 160 Wal-Mart stores between the Columbus and Cincinnati areas.

Future Organics, Inc. is delivering food bins designed for short-term storage of food waste to Wal-Mart stores to be delivered to Marvin's Organic Gardens.

Composting By the Numbers

This local partnership involves:

- 3 tons of discarded scraps weekly by Wal-Mart
- 1,000,000 yard compost pile at Marvin's Organic Gardens
- Collection from 6 to 8 Wal-Mart stores each day in truckloads of up to 22 tons

What Will be Composted?

- Spoiled and damaged food scraps
- Food preparation materials
- Plants from the gardening center

What's the Benefit?

Wal-Mart benefits from the partnership as compost disposal fees at Marvin's Organic Gardens are lower than landfills. The landfill diversion of composting is beneficial for their carbon footprint and eliminates greenhouse gases, such as methane, that are produced in landfills. It will also increase the nutrient diversity and microorganism species in the compost mound at Marvin's Organic Gardens.

"The nutrient rich homemade compost we are able to produce from the food waste supplied from Wal-Mart is the best way to promote healthy lawns and gardens and grow the best tasting fruits and vegetables possible. Marvin's Organic Gardens is proud to help Wal-Mart with their pledge to significantly reduce landfill waste," said Wes Duren, owner of Marvin's Organic Gardens.

All recycled materials are commingled and piled in long mounds and then aged for up to a decade. The piles are turned at least four times per year in order to expedite decomposition, reduce nutrient loss and to promote the highest quality weed-free compost available.

Generally, any plant-based item can be composted in nature's process of recycling decomposed organic materials. Most compost takes three to five years to age to purchasing quality; some compost at Marvin's Organic Gardens is aged over 12 years.

How Can You Get Involved?

Compost is available for purchase at Marvin's Organic Gardens, as well as composting bins and materials for at-home composting. Marvin's offers homemade compost for pick up and delivery that meets National Organic Standards. They accept residential yard debris free of charge; larger loads are \$25-\$125 and food waste is accepted for \$20 per ton. Marvin's has been an EPA-permitted organic waste recycling center since 2000.

About Marvin's Organic Gardens

Marvin's Organic Gardens, located in Lebanon, Ohio, is a full-service nursery, retail garden center and landscape design company, located 25 miles north of downtown Cincinnati. Since 1999, Marvin's has featured organic, natural and safe gardening practices for gardeners throughout the region. Marvin's Organic Gardens is the only nursery/garden center in the tri-state to be USDA Certified Organic. For more information, call 513.932.3319 or visit <http://www.marvinsorganicgardens.com>.

Happy Composting!