

# For compost Organic gardens partnered with regional Walmart

September 5, 2010

In order to receive food and plant waste for composting from 160 Wal-Mart stores between the Columbus and Cincinnati areas, including the one in Chillicothe, Marvin's Organic Gardens has partnered with Future Organics, Inc.

Collecting almost 3 tons of discarded scraps weekly, the food bins designed for short-term storage of food waste to Wal-Mart stores are delivered by the Future Organics Inc., which is a privately held company working with Wal-Mart stores in Ohio and Michigan. Each day from around six to eight stores the raw materials are collected in truckloads of up to 22 tons to be delivered to Marvin's Organic Gardens 1,000,000-yard compost pile.

Spoiled and damaged food scraps, food preparation materials and plants from the gardening center are among the waste collected from the Walmart stores. As the compost disposal fees at Marvin's Organic Gardens are lower than landfills, the Walmart benefited from the partnership.

The owner of Marvin's Organic Gardens Wes Duren said that the nutrient rich homemade compost that they are able to produce from the food waste supplied from Walmart is the best way to promote healthy lawns and gardens and grow the best tasting fruits and vegetables possible.

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

In the nature's process of recycling decomposed organic materials, any plant-based item can be composted in general. In order to reach the age of purchasing quality most compost takes three to five years to age.