

COMPOSTING VOCABULARY



Aerobic: Happening in the presence of oxygen

Biodegradable: The breakdown of organic materials by living things, such as bacteria and fungi

*Almost everything is biodegradable, but it may take years, decades, or centuries for this to happen.

Compost: The product that is made from the natural decomposition process of anything that was once alive. Compost is referred to as the recycling of organic waste.

Compostable Materials: Materials that have been certified to break down completely into non-toxic components and will not harm the environment

Decompose/Decomposition: A natural process in which organic materials rot to the point where other plants can use their nutrients

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): A gas in Earth's atmosphere that traps heat and contributes to global warming. Common GHGs are methane and carbon dioxide

Landfill: A place where garbage is buried and covered with soil

Organic Material: Materials derived from living organisms, such as food, garden and lawn clippings, and wood waste, which can be recycled and turned into valuable products such as compost