Become a Master Composter

Washtenaw County MASTER COMPOSTER - AAPS Rec & Ed - Fall 2017 Catalog

This Michigan Master Composter class is offered by Project Grow and Washtenaw County through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Rec & Ed program. Class registration is posted online at www.a2schools.org/reced; search on “Master Composter.” The fall AAPS Rec & Ed courses are available starting late August.

7 weeks – Wednesdays, Sept. 27 to Nov. 8, 2017 (FEE: $59) 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Pioneer High School, 1515 S. 7th St., Ann Arbor 48103. Provides seven, 2.5-hour classes. Two classes are held off-site: one at Project Grow’s Compost Education Center at Leslie Science & Nature Center, Ann Arbor; and another class at Tuthill Farm in South Lyon.**

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.

9/27 Class overview, Composting basics (Nancy Stone & Lisa Perschke, Advanced Master Gardener)

10/4* Yard Waste Reduction and tour of Project Grow’s Compost Education Center at the Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, 48105. Meet at the Project Grow demonstration area. Will move indoors at dusk. (Chris Simmons, City of Ypsilanti; Joet Reoma, Master Gardener, Master Rain Gardener)

Optional CEC Practicum: Starting Oct. 7, Sat. 10 am—Noon. Students may earn volunteer hours towards Master Composter Certification at Project Grow’s Compost Education Center. Held at the same location as the 10/4 class and continues every Saturday until the end of the class. The CEC Practicum includes the practice of hot composting, comfrey green manure processing, cover crops cultivation and maintaining a large in-ground vermiculture. If interested, RSVP weekly to joet@projectgrowgardens.org.

10/11**Tour of large-scale composting operations and hot composting session at Tuthill Farms and Composting, Inc., 10505 Tuthill Road, South Lyon, MI 48178 www.tuthillfarms.com off US 23 south of I96. (Sandra Tuthill, Joet Reoma)

10/18 Vermiculture (worms), special composting, compost teas (Jesse Raudenbush, Master Gardener, owner of Starr Valley Farms)

10/25 Soils -Steve Manville, retired Senior Sanitarian from Washtenaw County Environmental Health

11/1 OPTIONAL Worm bin workshop. Hands-on session. Note: All students may attend at no charge. Please pre-register in-class if interested in purchasing worm bin materials for $30 (includes 1000 red worms, worm bedding, bin screen; drill provided). Bring your own Rubbermaid 18-gallon storage bin with lid. (Jesse Raudenbush)

11/8 Guest presenters with community composting opportunities, take-home exam corrected; students share ideas for volunteer projects, discuss date/topic for fall 2018 graduation pizza dinner. (Lisa Perschke, with guest presenters)