Webinar Resource List: Producing Compost On-Site with the Healthy Soils Program

Comprehensive Resources
- *Community-Scale Composting Systems: A Comprehensive Practical Guide for Closing the Food System Loop and Solving Our Waste Crisis* by James McSweeney (print; sells for around $60)
- *On-Farm Composting Handbook* by Robert Rynk et al.
- *The Composting Handbook: A how-to and why manual for farm, municipal, institutional and commercial composters* from US Compost Council (print; sells for around $130)
- *Compost for Mid-Sized Farms* by John Biernbaum, Michigan State University (brief, high-level guide)
- *On-Farm Compost Resources* from CDFA; offers a range of resources on regulatory compliance, best practices, and more

Healthy Soils Program-Specific Resources
- *Compost Application Rate White Paper* (abridged)
- *Grant Award Procedures Manual* (instructions for modifying existing grant to include on-farm produced compost)
- *STA Compost-Certified Testing Facilities* (US Compost Council; laboratory options for assessing C:N ratio of finished compost before application)

Compost Use and Benefits
- *Compost Use Fact Sheets* (Compost Research Education Foundation)
- *Compost & Mulch Use in Agriculture* (CalRecycle)
- *Compost Production & Utilization: A Grower's Guide* (Mark van Horn, CDFA, UCANR)
- *Assessing Compost Quality for Agriculture* (David Crohn, UCANR)

Recipe & Feedstock Information
- *Bulk Density Test* (Washington State University Puyallup)
  - NOTE: This test calls for dropping the bucket from a 1’ height, while we typically follow instructions from James McSweeney that call for dropping the bucket from a 6” height.
- *Moisture Content Microwave Test* (US Cooperative Extension Foundation)
- *US Compost Council Recipe Calculator* (our top pick)
  - NOTE: The “Wood and paper” feedstock category isn't working yet, but we've found workarounds in the “Yard trimmings and other vegetation” category or using the “My Feedstocks” option.
• **Compost Mixture Calculation Spreadsheet** (Excel file w/ built-in formulas from Cornell Composting)
• **Compost Mixture Calculator** (Washington State University Puyallup; has both an Excel spreadsheet and browser app, but browser app requires account with AgWeatherNet)
• **Compostable Raw Materials** (Table of common feedstock C:N ratios, moisture content, & bulk density from Cornell Composting)
• **Persistent Herbicide Information for Horse and Livestock Owners** (University of Vermont; includes considerations on use of herbicide-treated feedstocks)
• **Persistent Herbicide Resources** (US Compost Council; includes a webinar recording on herbicides in compost and much more)

**Siting, Maintenance, and Troubleshooting**

- **Agricultural Composting and Water Quality** (Oregon State University Extension; has great information on system and site selection, as well)
- **Compost Pile Monitoring: Why and How** (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources)
- **Compost Treatment Record Template**
- **Sample Compost Pile Monitoring Log** (Institute for Local Self Reliance)
- **Community Composting Done Right: A Guide to Best Management Practices** (Institute for Local Self Reliance)

**Further Reading**

- **CA Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulatory Requirements.**
  - In particular, you may want to familiarize yourself with the [Excluded Activities](#).
  - Keep in mind, your local municipality may have more stringent regulations and you should refer to your local enforcement agency for guidance.
- **Large-Scale Composting Resources** - an extensive list from Cornell Waste Management Institute
- **Compost it Yourself Guide** - Although designed for home composters, this guide has general info that applies at all scales.
- **Composting Resources** from Solana Center
- **Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener’s Guide to the Soil Food Web** by Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis
- **Teaming with Nutrients** by Jeff Lowenfels
- **Teaming with Fungi** by Jeff Lowenfels
- **The Soil Story** video by Kiss the Ground (they also have a full-length documentary on Netflix)
- **The Rodale Book of Composting** edited by Deborah L. Martin & Grace Germany
- **Cows Save the Planet: And Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth** by Judith D. Schwartz