

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](#) (what you're allowed to do without a permit).
 - *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