

# Best Practices for Composting

## Location

- 🍃 Locate compost pile at least 1 meter away from all structures to prevent damage in case of a fire in the compost
- 🍃 Locate compost pile away from potential sources of contamination (i.e., garbage, water runoff, etc.)
- 🍃 Animal or pest access will be restricted as much as possible (i.e., by use of a fence or other enclosure)

## Material and Treatment

- 🍃 Only use plant-derived materials for the compost, or if using manure, use only chicken and herbivore manure
- 🍃 Maintain the internal temperature of compost above 131°F for at least 3 consecutive days, verified through the use of a temperature measuring device designed for the task
- 🍃 Turn the compost at least once per week
- 🍃 Cure the compost for a minimum of 2 months
- 🍃 Implement controls to prevent cross-contamination of mature or completed compost with fresh, non-composted plant material

## Hygienic Considerations

- 🍃 Clean hands thoroughly with soap and potable water in a designated location after handling compost or compostable material
- 🍃 Protect individuals with asthma or other respiratory illness by excluding them from compost-turning duties

## Equipment

- 🍃 Clean and sanitize composting equipment/tools before being used for harvesting activities in the garden, if equipment is shared for the two duties

## Quality Control

- 🍃 Document the method to calibrate the temperature measuring device - check manufacturer specifications
- 🍃 Use a log to record and track compost temperatures

