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**Composting program**

**Did you know?**

* [Composting](http://vegweb.com/composting/) is a way of utilizing microorganisms to break down and decompose organic matter.
* 70% of your waste stream can be composted or recycled.
* An average household produces 600 pounds of compostable yard waste yearly.
* Compostable material makes up 20 percent of a community's residential waste.
* Compost needs between 60 to 90 days minimum to complete the process, although optimal ranges are between 90 to 120 days.

**Benefits of composting**

* Reduction of waste needlessly going into landfills.
* Production of an organic soil amendment rich in nutrients that will help produce healthier plants.
* Compost:
  + Enhances germination, fuels plant growth and improves yields of crops
  + Balances the pH and moisture of the soil so that plants grow better and lawns stay greener
  + Helps to diminish erosion, which is often attributed to low fertility
  + Increases soil permeability and decreases the need for irrigation and fertilization
* The process of composting kills pathogens. This takes away the need for pesticides thus protecting the ecosystem.
* By reducing the amount of organic matter in the landfills, we can bring the level of greenhouse gases down.

**What can I compost?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YES** | | | | **NO** | | | |
|  | Cooked food waste |  | Raw fruit |  | Juice boxes |  | Wood |
|  | Meat and bones |  | Vegetable scraps |  | Milk cartons |  | Wooden chopsticks |
|  | Dairy products |  | Coffee ground & filters |  | Styrofoam |  | Sand |
|  | Grains, bread, pasta |  | Tea bags |  | Glass, mirrors |  | Metal |
|  | Paper towels, napkins |  | Egg shells |  | Plastic bags & cutlery |  | Bio-solids |
|  | Paper cups & plates |  | Yard waste |  | Grease |  | Animal waste |

**How does the program work?**

The main objective is to connect:

* People who would like to compost (e.g. apartment dwellers) but don't have space to hold it.
* People who would like compost to fertilize their gardens or crops.

**How can I participate?**

1. Go to grasshopper.ca/composte
2. Create a profile and update your compost needs
3. Review your match (the website will provide you with options around your neighborhood so that you can connect with the match most suitable for you)