

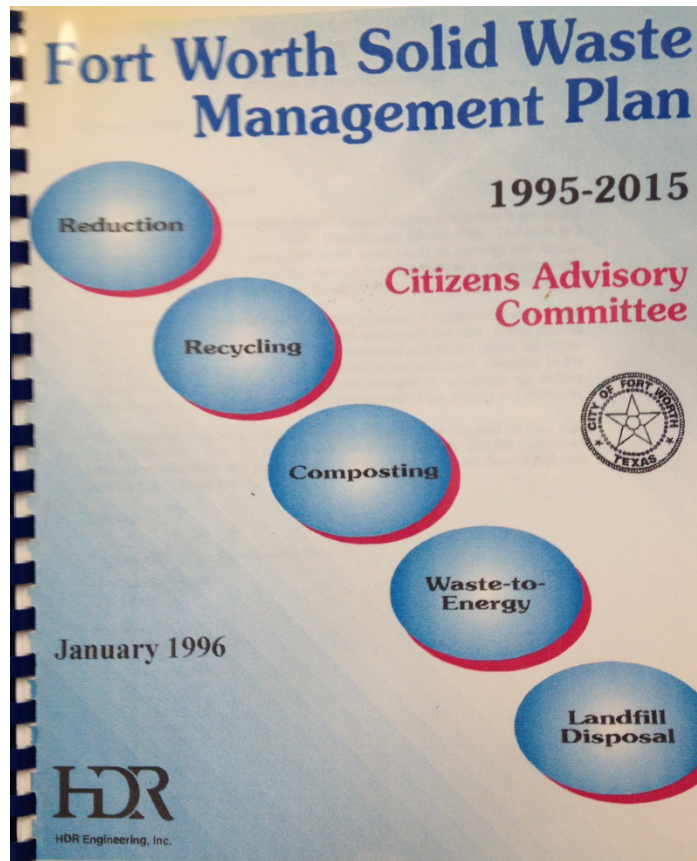


Backyard Composting

DFW Area Food Recovery Event
October 21, 2015

Debbie Branch
City of Fort Worth
Resource Recovery Planner

Fort Worth Solid Waste Management Plan: 1995-2015



- Establishment of separate yard trimming collection program
- Establishment of centralized composting program
- No mention of food waste, but 66% willing to compost yard trimmings in future
- Only 15% of survey group were currently composting

Fort Worth Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan: 2016–2026

Some have expressed interest for
food composting



<http://fortworthtexas.gov/swplan>

A Compost Bin in Every Yard

- ▶ “While municipal composting is a good idea, wouldn’t it be better for households to compost their own organic wastes, eliminating the need for a whole municipal service structure”.
 - Compost Demonstration Sites – 1980
 - Master Composter Program – 1985
 - Low Cost Compost Bin and Info Distributed – 1989



City of Seattle

WACO NOTEBOOK

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Staff photo — Kelly Lemor

Checking the temperature

Debble Branch (left), city of Waco Recycling Coordinator, checks the temperature of a compost heap during a backyard composting class Tuesday at Cameron Park Zoo. The city will offer a master composting class Oct. 7-9 for \$30. No prior composting experience is needed, and participants will receive 15 hours of formal training as well as materials for the class. To ask questions call 751-8561.

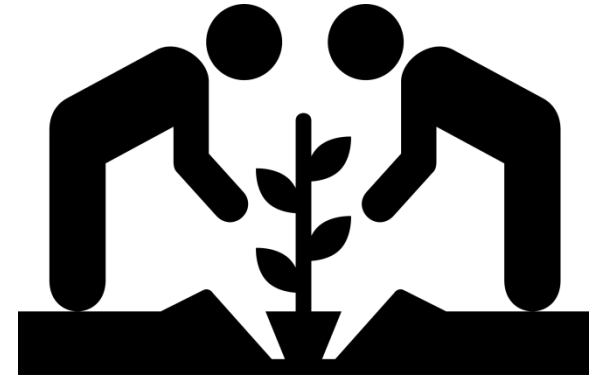
Rolling Hills Tree Farm



Mulch vs. Compost

Target Audience

- ▶ Gardeners
- ▶ Health Seekers
- ▶ Anyone seeking a healthy lawn
- ▶ Anyone wanting to save water
- ▶ People with an agriculture background
- ▶ Pet Groomers
- ▶ Vegetarians
- ▶ Educators / Green Classroom





Enticements to take class
15 hours sounds like a long time!

Texas has 20/20 Program

- ▶ 15 classroom hours
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Field trips
- ▶ Listen to presentations
- ▶ Teach a neighbor/friend
- ▶ Work with a school group
- ▶ Booth at a garden show
- ▶ Compost Demonstration Site

20 Training Hours

20 Volunteer Hours

Rules of Rot

- ▶ Mass – At least 3 cubic yards
- ▶ Moisture – As wet as a rung out sponge
- ▶ Material – (30:1)
- ▶ Air & Time



Food Scraps & Backyard Composting

- ▶ Vegetables
- ▶ Fruits
- ▶ Coffee Grounds
- ▶ Tea Bags
- ▶ Grains

- ▶ Meat
- ▶ Dairy
- ▶ Oil
- ▶ Cooked Food



YES

NO

Master Compost Class Partner - Texas AgriLife Extension



 **AgriLIFE EXTENSION**
Texas A&M System



Master Composter Classes





Class Presentations

Teach One, Teach Many!



Continuing Ed Hours – Tours



- Recycling Processing Center
- Compost Demonstration Site
- Landfill
- Tree Farm



Worms!



Vermicomposting





Volunteer Opportunities



Is worm composting for me?

Do I want to improve the quality of my soil?

Am I adding food scraps to my household waste?

Do I live in a small space or have minimal yard space?

Worm Composting

DOs	DON'Ts
<p>Veggies </p> <p>Fruits </p> <p>Coffee Grounds </p> <p>Egg Shells </p> <p>Newspaper </p>	<p>Citrus </p> <p>Dairy </p> <p>Meat </p> <p>Hot Peppers </p> <p>Socks </p>

How to build a worm bin

- SAND** (helps worms digest food)
- Worms** (red wigglers only, purchase at your local farm supply store)
- Food Scraps**
- Coffee Grounds** (controls odors)

Earthworms vs Red Wigglers

- Earthworms are for outdoor composting. **Red Wigglers** are for indoor composting.
- Earthworms are found in nature. **Red Wigglers** must be purchased at a farm supply.
- Earthworms burrow into the earth. **Red Wigglers** flip around in surface materials.

Compost Demonstration Site



Recruiting

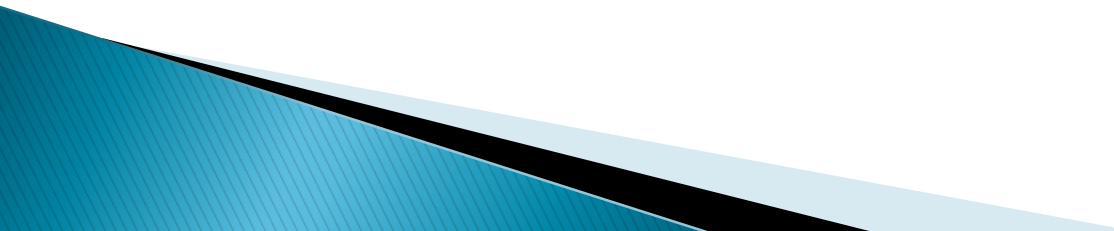
- ▶ Teacher Scholarships
- ▶ HOA/Neighborhood Association partnerships
- ▶ Host Partners – zoo, botanic garden, YMCA, Church



Recognition!



Results

- ▶ Two classes annually since fall of 2008 (15 classes)
 - ▶ 361 people through class since 2008
 - ▶ Average 24 people per class
 - ▶ If each participant taught 3 people about backyard composting that is more than 1083 people composting
- 

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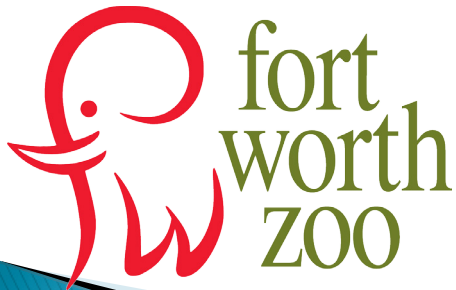


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BOTANICAL RESEARCH
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