

RESIDENT, TOWN OF POUND RIDGE
POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK 10576

Pound Ridge Conservation Board
Town House, Westchester Avenue
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

PRRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
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COMPOST: THE GOOD EARTH.

Even we, the Pound Ridge Conservation Board, wonder if the number of converts we might get from this mailer will justify the effort. How green does a person really need to be?

Is dumping wilted lettuce, coffee grounds and egg shells in a compost bin going to save the planet? No! But, it might help.

How? First, it lessens the amount of garbage that goes into a landfill. Second, it makes rich soil that adds nutrients to plants, replacing the fertilizer that might normally be used. Third, it's a daily reminder of your relationship with our planet.

THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Composting is a biological process during which naturally occurring microorganisms (e.g. bacteria and fungi), insects, snails, and earthworms break down organic materials (such as leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, and certain food wastes) into a soil-like material called compost.

Composting is a form of recycling, a natural way of returning nutrients to the soil. It helps the environment and is a convenient, beneficial, and inexpensive way to handle organic wastes.

Compost improves soil texture, fertility, and ability to hold water and air. Compost can be used as a dressing for shrubs and gardens.

WHERE TO GET COMPOST CONTAINERS.

The easiest and least expensive place is Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. The County sells the Earth Machine for \$50.

Or, go on line and google. There are many kinds at a variety of prices

WHAT TO COMPOST

Cardboard rolls
Coffee grounds and filters
Cotton rags
Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
Eggshells
Fireplace ashes
Fruits and vegetables
Grass clippings
Hair and fur
Houseplants
Leaves
Nut shells
Sawdust
Shredded newspaper
Tea bags
Wood chips
Wool rags
Yard trimmings

WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

Coal or charcoal ash
Might contain substances harmful to plants
Dairy products, fats, grease, lard, or oils, meat or fish bones and scraps
Create odor problems and attract pests such as coyotes, racoons, rodents and flies

Diseased or insect-ridden plants
Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
Pet feces, soiled cat litter
Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans

COMPOST PILES

The plastic bins, tumblers and cones are great for kitchen waste and produce compost at a much faster rate than compost piles. However, the compost pile can handle volume.

All composting requires three basic ingredients:

- Browns—Includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, twigs
- Greens—Includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds
- Water

Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin.

Make sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded. (A lawn mower will do the trick.)

Cover your composting area with a 6-inch layer of brown materials. Then add a 3-inch layer of green materials and a little soil or finished compost.

Lightly mix the two layers above.

Top with a 3-inch layer of brown materials, adding water until moist.

Turn your compost pile every week or two with a pitchfork to distribute air and moisture. Move the dry materials from the edges into the middle of the pile. Continue this practice until the pile does not re-heat much after turning.

Your compost will be ready in one to four months.

HANDY WEB SITES

Here's more than you ever wanted to know including how to build your own bin.

www.westchestergov.com

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/rrr/index.htm

www.howtocompost.org

The Pound Ridge Conservation Board