

CARLSBAD COMPOSTING

Your Monthly Newsletter for Inspiration in Sustainability
Sponsored by The City of Carlsbad's Sustainable Materials Management Division
Created by reEarth Consulting



THE SEASONS OF COMPOST

by reEarth Consulting

Our gardens change with the seasons, and so do our compost bins.

Summer fruits and veggies are often more moisture rich, think of tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupes, corn, cucumbers, zucchinis, and eggplants. These plants are hearty and easy to grow in the garden, and you may have found the same goes for your compost too. While adding more dry material to compensate for the extra water these crops can bring into your pile, you provide a perfect spot for seeds to germinate as well. It's like a free nursery! Gleaning new seedlings sprouting out from your compost is like getting new plants for free! These seedlings can be carefully removed from the pile, put into a seedling container and grown into full plants.

As we move into fall and winter, the compost pile will begin to shift as it accommodates new crop varieties. Pumpkins, gourds, winter squashes, leafy greens, cabbages, and broccoli are all more dense in their material. Their fibrous profile means you'll need to chop the pieces smaller and be mindful of adding enough water to your pile to ensure it continues to be balanced and thriving.

**NOW IS THE
PERFECT TIME
TO START
YOUR
COMPOST AT
HOME**



the great pumpkin decay

'Tis the season for pumpkin patches, gourd displays, apple picking, and pumpkin carving. Abundant autumn crops bring the magic as we turn towards cooler weather. However, all that magic quickly gets forgotten as "every year, more than 1 billion pounds of pumpkin get tossed out and left to rot in America's landfills. Some are thrown away the day after Halloween, contributing to the 30.3 million tons of annual food waste in the U.S. When left to decompose in a landfill, that food waste produces methane gas, a greenhouse gas that's far more potent than carbon dioxide." - The Atlantic

Instead of throwing your pumpkins, gourds, and apple cores away in the landfill this year, consider these alternatives:

- Paint and decorate pumpkins instead of carving to avoid them from rotting more quickly.
- Before carved pumpkins show signs of rotting, cut them up into small pieces and add to compost pile.
- Have your children set up a "pumpkin recycle center" in your neighborhood to save carved pumpkins from the landfill and brought straight to your compost...you win in the end with all the free nutrients for your soil!
- If you know the source of your pumpkin, like from a local farm, save the seeds upon carving and cleaning it out. Seeds can be used for next summer to plant in your own garden, or roast them in the oven.
- To save the seeds, simply separate seeds from membrane, spread out on parchment paper and allow to dry fully. Store in airtight container and label.

We look forward to seeing you at the next webinar or Q & A session! Look for November's newsletter for more composting tips and inspiration!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS IN 2020

The City of Carlsbad's Sustainable Materials Management Division partnered with reEarth Consulting to provide free composting education and subsidized composting supplies since 2018. Given the current social distancing parameters in place, the education, in the form of composting workshops and Q&A sessions will be held virtually. They are free for you to attend from the comfort of your own home. Join us for these online interactive webinars and discussion sessions to learn the ins and outs of home composting.

Live Webinars

Live webinars will be held on Zoom, with interactive style presentations and demonstrations, on scheduled Saturdays, with two sessions: 9am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 3 pm. Spots are limited and they do fill up quick! Please register in advance to attend and receive the appropriate log in link.

Saturdays

October 31st

Q & A Sessions

These sessions will share about the program and answer any composting related questions and troubleshooting issues. Our team will be available to help come up with solutions on scheduled Saturdays from 9 am - 10 am on Facebook Live!

Saturdays

October 17th, November 19th & December 12th

Subsidized Composting Supplies

Subsidized composting bins can be purchased any time of the program's webpage. Inventory is limited and we practice "first come, first served"!

[To register for the Live Webinars and purchase the composting supplies please visit:](https://www.reearthconsulting.com/carlsbadcomposting.html)

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[To register and participate in the Live Q&A Sessions, please visit and LIKE the program Facebook Page:](https://www.facebook.com/carlsbadcomposting)

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