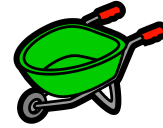




## Welcome to the Compost Site



We appreciate your effort to compost grass clippings and leaves. The easiest way is to compost them in your own back yard in a compost pile or bin. Grass clippings can most benefit your lawn if cut frequently and allowed to decompose right back into the soil.

### 2010 Hours

April 13-Nov 14	Mondays & Holidays	Closed
	Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri	2pm-7pm (or sunset)
	Saturdays	8am-5pm (or sunset)
	Sundays	12 noon – 5pm (or sunset)

The Compost Site will close at the stated time or sunset, which ever is earlier!  
The Site is located on Armstrong Road just south of Sechler Park.

### ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- Grass clippings, leaves, sod, and garden waste
- Straw, container dirt, pine needles, apples and weeds
- Biodegradable **paper** yard waste bags
  - Hedge clippings, tree trimmings and branches go on the brush pile. Limb size must be less than 6" in circumference.

### UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- Garbage, rocks, concrete or tires
- Treated lumber, fencing, landscape timbers, lattice wood or tree stumps
- No plastic bags or plastic biodegradable bags

### COMPOSTING ROWS

- White and Green Signs mark the Compost Pile where clipping and all compost materials should be placed
- Yellow and Red Signs mark the Brush Pile where hedge clippings, tree trimmings and small branches are allowed
- No fresh compost on old compost piles, follow directions given by monitor at the site

**Wood chips and screened compost are available to residents to load for personal use on a first come first served basis.**

- **No skid loaders or other mechanized equipment allowed on site.**

### CURBSIDE RECYCLING IS AVAILABLE IN NORTHFIELD

- You must purchase only "Waste Management" paper recyclable bags
- Bags are available at Econo Foods, Cub Foods and Northfield Waste Management
  - \$2.00 per bag
- The Waste Management bags will be collected on the same day as your garbage pick up
- Bags must be set out by 7:00am
  - Spring Collection (April 5 – May 7, 2010)
  - Fall Collection (September 27 – October 29, 2010)
  - Between May 8 and September 26, residents need to contact Waste Management for yard waste collection at 1-800-777-8408

### RICE COUNTY YARD WASTE SITE

- Year round composting available
  - 7:30am – 3:30pm Monday – Friday
  - 7:30am – 11:30am Saturday
- Located at the Recycling Center, 7 miles south on Hwy 3 and CR 75
- Questions call (507) 645-9576

### HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN COMPOST SITE

- Obtain a bin or an area in your yard that is approximately one cubic yard (3'x3'x3').
- Mix two parts brown (dry leaves, small twigs, straw, etc.) with one part green (grass clippings, kitchen scraps, etc.). This 2:1 ratio provides the best mix of carbon (brown materials) to nitrogen (greens).
- Chop or break up any twigs and large pieces of fruit and vegetable waste. Materials will break down more quickly with increased surface area.
- Keep it moist. Water your compost to keep it moist like a wrung-out sponge.
- Keep it turning. Compost needs air. Turning the compost will help it break down and will prevent it from smelling unpleasant.
- When it is ready your compost should look and smell like rich soil.

### WHAT SHOULD NOT GO IN THE COMPOST SITE

- Bones, meat and eggs should be kept out of the compost site, egg shells are ok
- Excrement from dogs and cats should be kept out
- Herbicide-treated grass or other clippings
- Oily or greasy food and paper

### POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- **Odors** in your compost bin are usually caused by too many greens or a proper amount of greens not adequately stirred into the mixture. If odor problems start, try mixing in more brown materials such as dried leaves, straw, compost or garden soil.
- **Flies** should not be attracted to your compost pile if food scraps are buried 6" to 12" in the center of the pile. Just dumping food waste on the top of the pile is what causes flies to seek out your compost bin
- **Moisture**, too much or not enough, can also be a problem. If it is too wet, the pile will rot rather than decompose. If it is too dry, nothing will happen. A cover will help keep it from getting too wet during rainy seasons. A garden hose can be used to add any necessary moisture. The pile should have the wetness of a squeezed-out sponge.

### HOW DO I USE COMPOST

- **Flowers and vegetables:** Work in half an inch of mature compost into the top six inches of the soil with a garden fork or rototiller.
- **Perennials:** Use compost as mulch to gradually improve the soil. Apply it an inch or so deep, between the plants.
- **Seedlings or potted flowers:** Use 20% mature compost in the soil mix
- **Trees and shrubs:** Uncomposted wood chips, grass clippings, and leaves can be spread around plantings.
- **Indoor plants:** Add small handfuls to the surface of the soil inside the pots.

### WHAT IS IN THE NORTHFIELD COMPOST

- Values for 100 pounds of compost
  - Nitrogen = .54 pounds
  - Phosphorus = .24 pounds
  - Potassium = .19 pounds
  - Sulphur = .08 pounds
  - Calcium = 6.08 pounds
- This material is to be used on all applications because of the low sodium and chloride levels (perfect for fruits, vegetables, and lawns).