MAKE YOUR OWN COMPOST!

**BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING**
- A fun individual, family, or community activity.
- Reduce waste (34% of the waste stream is yard and food waste) and methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.
- Improve soil and garden health.

**COMMON CRITTERS**
- Pill bug
- Centipede
- Ant
- Fungi
- Mold
- Earthworm
- Fruit fly
- Slug
- Beetle
- Spider

**IS IT DONE?**
Signs that your compost is done and ready for harvesting:
- Dark chocolatey brown
- Crumbly feel
- Earthy smell
- Material fairly small
Separate any remaining large material such as large pieces of wood with a screen.

**PILE MAINTENANCE**
- The pile needs oxygen. Turn the material from the outer edges to the center where it will be the hottest.
- Add water as needed so it is as wet as a wrung-out sponge.
- Use a compost thermometer to check the temperature of the pile. When the center of the pile reaches 150°F, turn it! If you don’t have a thermometer, turn the pile 2–4 days after you build it and occasionally thereafter.

**USE IT AS**
- Soil conditioner
- Top dressing
- Mulch
- Potting mixture

**BROWNS (CARBON)**
- Dried plant material
- Paper towels, napkins, and plates
- Newspaper
- Wood ash
- Untreated sawdust

**GREENS (NITROGEN)**
- Grass clippings
- Coffee grounds
- Vegetables
- Herbivore manure
- Fruit
- Grains

**WATER**
- Add water as you build the pile.
- Keep as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

Choose a location in the sun or shade!