Community Garden Class by Roney Bisio

Saturday, May, 2017

Subject: How to build a Straw Bale Compost Bin

Welcome Gardeners to the Community Garden Class

1. Introductions: Name, resident or non-resident of the Trust
2. Introduction of Committee Members

Why Compost:

1. Compost is the single most important supplement you can give your garden (black gold).
2. Soil conditioner: Creating rich humus for your garden and helps to retain moisture in the soil.
3. Recycles kitchen and yard waste: Composting can divert as much of 30% of household waste from landfills.
4. Introduces beneficial organisms to the soil: Microscopic organisms help to aerate soil for plant use and ward off plant disease.
5. Good for the environment: Composting is a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers.

What to Compost:

1. Green (nitrogen) 25-33% by volume: fruit and vegetable scraps (no meat, bones or fish scraps). Grass clippings, disease free garden plants, lawn and garden weeds (only use if not gone to seed), flower cuttings. Crushed eggshells (neutral), coffee/tea grounds.
2. Dry (carbon) 66-75% by volume: Leaves in fall, shrub pruning, straw or hay, small amount pine needles, Newspaper, shredded paper (avoid glossy or colored). Shredded cardboard. Corn cobs/ stalks. Limited sawdust/wood pellets.

Hay bales:

1. Easy to build
2. Will decompose into carbon material for pile
3. Inexpensive

Build Compost Bin

1. Base
    a. Place two bales on each end on opposing sides and one perpendicular to the walls to create approx. 3 square feet for each bin
    b. Add second layer in brick pattern
    c. Place pallet in center of bin. Layer waste as described above. In our climate keep moist as possible.
    d. Periodically aerate bin by turning material to adjoining bin as it breaks down.

Material Cost

1. 12 bales @ $10 a bale for a total of $120
2. pallets free to be picked up