



## *Sustainable Neenah Committee* **The Dirt on Composting**

Home composting can provide valuable material for gardens and landscaping while reducing costs for disposal. Instead of throwing away valuable nutrients, many gardeners choose to compost their grass clippings, leaves, trimmings, and vegetable scraps. Here are some of the reasons that compost is popular:

- Cheaper than chemical fertilizer
- Gradually releases nutrients
- Reduces disposal fees
- Diverts waste from the landfill
- Less stressful on roots
- Loosens soil
- Allows roots to spread out widely, preventing erosion
- Retains water like mulch
- Accelerates nutrient cycling
- Reduces oil dependence
- Sustainable improvement to the soil
- Reduced run-off and water pollution
- Reduced irrigation bill



### **Be a good neighbor.**

All composting should be done in a nuisance-free and environmentally sound manner. This includes minimizing odors and not attracting excessive numbers of rodents and other pests. Composting should also follow the general guidelines published by the Wisconsin DNR found on their website.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/compost.htm>



## Where can I compost?

Choose a level area with good drainage. If possible avoid direct sunlight and areas exposed to strong winds.

Neenah ordinances require compost piles to be located in **rear yards only**, **3 feet from the property line** and **20 feet from any neighboring dwelling**. Composting sites must be contained within a 3-sided structure or a commercially fabricated compost bin.



## What's good to compost?

Vegetable and Fruit scraps, Tea bags, Coffee grounds and filters, Egg and Nut shells, Yard materials and small amounts of waste paper including tissues, kitchen towels and newspaper.

## What's bad to compost?

Meat, Fish, Dairy produce, Eggs, Fat, Oil, Bones, Animal waste, Plastics, Shiny paper and card.

More composting links:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/homecompost.htm>

<http://www.howtocompost.org/>

<http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/rrr/composting/index.htm>

<http://www.mastercomposter.com/>