

COMPOSTING IN EAST AMWELL

Why is Composting important to everyone? Composting of kitchen vegetable and fruit waste along with garden and lawn waste is easy and everyone can do it, even if we never use the resulting humus in planters or the garden.

Please never put fruit and vegetable waste, leaves or grass clippings in your trash to be collected.

The State-Mandated recycling rate is 50% of the municipal solid waste stream and, although your family may not seem to generate much in the way of kitchen scraps each week, it can amount to hundreds of pounds per week throughout the Township and many tons per year of waste that must be land filled. One source states that up to 30% of the waste stream is composed of yard and food wastes. My unofficial observations around Ringoes are that few families use a composting system.

Composting is not complicated. You can purchase one of dozens of types of composting devices at nearby home and garden stores or on line. Or you may choose to build your own bin for almost no expense of wood or small opening fencing sitting right on the ground. You can be very ambitious or rather lazy in your efforts and the differences in the outcome may only be in the speed in which you generate good quality compost. The best compost will result if you use a ratio of 2-3 parts of brown waste such as shredded leaves to one part of veggie scraps and grass clippings. Tossing in a shovel-full of rich soil periodically will accelerate the process. Periodically turning over the composting pile will oxygenate and also accelerate the decomposition.

I personally mulch all fallen leaves and grass clippings into the lawn. You may choose to toss your kitchen scraps along with leaves and grass into your nearby woods, which will effectively keep these materials out of the waste stream and they will certainly decompose albeit more slowly. For those who do not have access to a woods or who want good quality mulch for gardening, then some form of composting system is essential.

For details on composting and available containers look on line under “COMPOSTING”

Will Harrison, East Amwell Recycling Committee