

2009 Master Composter Training Schedule

The classes emphasize a fun, interactive and hands-on approach. The goal is to learn about composting and gain confidence to present information to the public. Classes are supported by excellent reading material. Weekday evening classes are 6:30-9:00pm at the Live Oak Grange Hall, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz. Saturday dates are field trips to various locations and vary in length.

Date	Class/Field Trip
Thursday, January 29	Introductory Potluck Orientation and Introductions.
Thursday, February 5	Santa Cruz County Recycling and Solid Waste Services Guest Speaker, Public Works Staff, County of Santa Cruz. Learn everything you want to know about County of Santa Cruz solid waste diversion efforts and plans to build an Eco-Park at the Buena Vista Landfill.
Saturday, February 7, 10am-2pm	Backyard Compost Basics-Live Oak Grange Compost Demonstration Site Guest speakers lead us in a comprehensive backyard composting workshop, then we swing into the garden for some hands-on composting and tips for using a variety of backyard bins.
Thursday, February 19	The Soil Food Web and the Microbiology of Compost Guest Speaker: Joel Stryker, Master Composter and Microbiology/Botany instructor at Evergreen Valley College. Learn about bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoans and their importance in the composting process and soil food web.
Saturday, February 21 10am-3pm	Hot Composting, UCSC Style-UCSC Farm and Garden Hands-on pile building with the UCSC Farm Apprentices. Also learn how compost is used and visit the Rotzone Home Composting Demonstration Site.
Tuesday, February 24	Vermicomposting Prepare to be fascinated by the biology of redworms and the ecology of worm composting systems.
Saturday, February 28, 1-4pm	Compost with Worms and In-Vessel systems-Grey Bears Compost Demonstration Site Learn everything you need to know about volunteering at a "Wormshop" and how to answer questions about worm composting. We'll also learn how food scraps are composted at the Grey Bears with Earth Tub in-vessel composting.
Thursday, March 12	Compost Information Booth Skills Builder Fun group activity will teach you how to respond confidently to common composting questions. Learn effective ways to interact with the public at compost information booths. An introduction to Integrated Pest Management is also presented.
Saturday, March 14, 10am-12pm	Compost Troubleshooting The class will evaluate and track the progress of compost piles built in the Backyard Compost Basics class. Alternative food scrap composting techniques will also be presented.
Thursday, March 19	Creative Presentations Let your creative juices flow! Students give presentations on chosen topics.
Saturday, March 21, 9am-2:30pm.	Compost Tour Field trip to County of Santa Cruz landfill recycling and composting facilities.
Tuesday, March 24	Master Composter Certification Exam and Graduation Celebration A resource test will evaluate your readiness to provide composting information to the public. Then graduation fun and festivities--you earned a celebration!