

2010 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
Wednesday, February 3, 6:30-9pm	<p>Santa Cruz County Recycling and Solid Waste Services Guest Speaker, Public Works Staff, County of Santa Cruz. Learn about County of Santa Cruz solid waste diversion efforts, end uses of recycled items, and plans to build an Eco-Park at the Buena Vista Landfill.</p>
Saturday, February 6, 10am-3pm	<p>Backyard Compost Basics-Live Oak Grange Compost Demonstration Site Master Composters lead us in a comprehensive backyard composting workshop, then we swing into the garden for some hands-on composting using a variety of backyard bins.</p>
Wednesday, February 10, 6:30-9pm	<p>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.</p>
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30-9pm	<p>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, wormshops, and comprehensive workshops.</p>
Saturday, February 27, 10am-3pm	<p>Farm-Scale Composting and Horticultural Uses of Compost Guest Speakers, UCSC Farm and Garden Second Year Apprentices A hands-on opportunity to learn about farm-scale compost production techniques that meet National Organic Board standards. Learn how to sift and use finished compost in potting mixes for greenhouse production.</p>
Saturday, March 6, 10am-3pm	<p>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.</p>
Wednesday, March 10, 6:30-9pm	<p>Vermicomposting Guest Speaker: Karin Grobe, Santa Cruz County's Worm Doctor Prepare to be fascinated by the biology of redworms and the ecology of worm composting systems and take home your own worm bin.</p>
Saturday, March 13, 9am-3pm	<p>Commercial Food Scrap Composting: In-Vessel and Forced Aeration Systems Field trip to County of Santa Cruz Buena Vista landfill and Vision Recycling composting facilities. We'll also learn how food scraps are composted at the Second Harvest Food Bank with the Earth Tub in-vessel composting system.</p>
Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-9pm	<p>Master Composter Certification Exam and Potluck 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!</p>

Apply online at
www.compostsantacruzcounty.org