

Madison Community Garden Compost Rules:

Please take a few minutes to read through these guidelines to keep our new compost bins happy and healthy. Our goal is create quality compost that gardeners can use without worry of introducing weeds or plant disease into their plot.

1. Please follow our “Do’s and Don’ts” of composting - composting the wrong materials will lead to poor quality compost full of weed seeds - and potentially spread plant disease.
2. Always add your compostable material to the “open” bin. Do not put material in “closed” bins.
3. If you believe a plant is sick or diseased, it should be disposed of in the dumpster in the parking lot. Do not put sick or diseased plants in the compost bins. If you are in doubt be safe - throw it in the dumpster not the compost bins.
4. Garden weeds that have not gone to seed can be put in the compost bins. If your garden weeds have gone to seed put them in the organic material recycling area along the gravel path to the garden. If a weed has flowered, chances are that it has already set seeds - dispose of these in the organic material recycling area as well.
5. Do not put tomato fruit of any variety including tomatillos in the compost bins. Tomato seeds will survive the heat of the compost bins and sprout when the compost is used in garden plots.
6. Do not put large thick stalks in the compost bins, unless you shred them first. Thick stalks (sunflowers, corn, etc.) can be put in the organic material recycling area.
7. When removing plant material from your garden, knock soil off the root ball before composting. That is valuable soil you want to keep in your plot.
8. When adding material to the compost bin, do not squash it down to make more space. Squashing the contents will squeeze out the air that microbes in the compost pile need. Add any “overflow” to the next “open” bin.
9. State regulations strictly prohibit bringing any of your compostable household material (i.e. food scraps, grass clippings, leaves) to the garden compost bins. Compost these materials at home to use in your own garden plots.