

Backyard Composting Reduces Waste in Landfills

Issue (Who cares and why?)

Delaware landfills receive tons of grass cuttings, leaves and other biodegradable trash each year from urban and rural areas. These throwaway materials are valuable renewable natural resources that have potential to be backyard composted into a natural soil nutrient—a fact misunderstood by many Delawareans.

What has been done?

Through its continuing educational efforts, Extension undertook the sale of backyard compost bins, developed and staffed local compost exhibits and gave presentations in the community on the benefits of composting.

Impact

In 2002, 170 compost bins were distributed to homeowners. Backyard composting with these bins alone potentially could eliminate 2,992 cubic feet of backyard “natural” trash from Delaware’s landfills.

Funding

Federal Renewable Resources Extension Act

Contact

Dorothy Abbott-Donnelly
Cooperative Extension Renewable Resources Educator
University of Delaware
69 Transportation Circle
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: (302) 730-7000
Fax: (302) 735-8130

E-mail address

dotad@udel.edu