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

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