

# Become a Master Composter

## Washtenaw County MASTER COMPOSTER - AAPS Rec & Ed - Fall 2017 Catalog

This Michigan Master Composter class is offered by Project Grow and Washtenaw County through the Ann Arbor Public Schools Rec & Ed program. Class registration is posted online at

[https://apm.activecommunities.com/aareced/Activity\\_Search?txtActivitySearch=Master%20composter&applyFiltersDefaultValue=true&cat=Activities](https://apm.activecommunities.com/aareced/Activity_Search?txtActivitySearch=Master%20composter&applyFiltersDefaultValue=true&cat=Activities).

**7 weeks – Wednesdays, Sept. 27 to Nov. 8, 2017 (FEE: \$59) 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Pioneer High School, 1515 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Ann Arbor 48103. Provides seven, 2.5-hour classes. Two classes are held off-site: one at Project Grow's Compost Education Center at Leslie Science & Nature Center, \* Ann Arbor; and another class at Tuthill Farm in South Lyon. \*\***

Want to transform yard debris and kitchen scraps into a nutrient-rich, natural soil amendment? Identify your own soil profile? Learn hot composting techniques? Create low-maintenance, low-waste yards? Tour large- and small-scale compost operations? Know how to compost with red worms? Make compost teas? Use cover crops, green manures and living mulch? These topics--and more--are offered by a range of presenters. Michigan Master Composter certification is available for students who pass the take-home exam and complete at least 10 volunteer hours in the community. Students may fulfill some or all of these hours by participating in the optional Saturday Composting Practicum.

9/27 Class overview, Composting basics (*Nancy Stone & Lisa Perschke, Advanced Master Gardener*)

10/4\* Yard Waste Reduction and tour of Project Grow's Compost Education Center at the **Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, 48105**. Meet at the Project Grow demonstration area. Will move indoors at dusk. (*Chris Simmons, City of Ypsilanti; Joet Reoma, Master Gardener, Master Rain Gardener*)

*Optional CEC Practicum: Starting Oct. 7, Sat. 10 am—Noon. Students may earn volunteer hours towards Master Composter Certification at Project Grow's Compost Education Center. Held at the same location as the 10/4 class and continues every Saturday until the end of the class. The CEC Practicum includes the practice of hot composting, comfrey green manure processing, cover crops cultivation and maintaining a large in-ground vermiculture. If interested, RSVP weekly to joet@projectgrowgardens.org.*

10/11\*\*Tour of large-scale composting operations and hot composting session at **Tuthill Farms and Composting, Inc., 10505 Tuthill Road, South Lyon, MI 48178** [www.tuthillfarms.com](http://www.tuthillfarms.com) off US 23 south of I96. (*Sandra Tuthill, Joet Reoma*)

10/18 Vermiculture (worms), special composting, compost teas (*Jesse Raudenbush, Master Gardener, owner of [Starr Valley Farms](http://StarrValleyFarms.com)*)

10/25 Soils -Steve Manville, retired Senior Sanitarian from Washtenaw County Environmental Health

11/1 OPTIONAL Worm bin workshop. Hands-on session. *Note: All students may attend at no charge. Please pre-register in-class if interested in purchasing worm bin materials for \$30 (includes 1000 red worms, worm bedding, bin screen; drill provided).* Bring your own Rubbermaid 18-gallon storage bin with lid. (*Jesse Raudenbush*)

11/8 Guest presenters with community composting opportunities, take-home exam corrected; students share ideas for volunteer projects, discuss date/topic for fall 2018 graduation pizza dinner. (*Lisa Perschke, with guest presenters*)