

UC Riverside Extension
University of California, Riverside
PO Box 112
Riverside, CA 92521-0112



Compost Use in Agriculture on the Central Coast

April 22, 2009



April 22, 2009

Presented by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, UC Cooperative Extension, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

Compost Use in Agriculture on the Central Coast

Spring 2009



Compost Use in Agriculture on the Central Coast

Presented by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, UC Cooperative Extension, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

This workshop is a segment of the Agricultural Compost Specifications Project. The funding and oversight is provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the project is administered by University of California. The goal is to improve and expand compost use in agriculture by providing reliable scientifically-derived information on suitable compost properties to California farmers. The project represents an extension of the Association of Compost Producers Use Index, which is under continuing development by researchers and technical experts, industry professionals and advisors, and feedback from farmers and other end-users of composts.

Specific tasks to be completed in the project include:

1. The development of a comprehensive set of compost specifications tailored to each of five California crops identified as being promising compost receptors.
2. Incorporation of the newly developed specifications into the existing Association of Compost Producers Compost Use Index.
3. Promotion of the newly developed specifications to the agricultural community through workshops, brochures, and continuing education materials.

Pending approval for 3 hours of OTHER credit through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. License categories PCA, QAL, and QAC.

Program Agenda

Morning Program

8:00 a.m.Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.Welcome and Introductions

8:40 a.m.Background on Statewide Program

8:50 a.m.Compost Basics

Addresses the question, "What is compost?" and provides an overview of composting methods, the aspects of the chemical, physical and biological processes. The presentation explains the importance of thermophilic processes for reduced conversion time, pathogen reduction and nutrient recycling. Additionally, makes an important distinction between the types of compost uses of mulching versus soil amending.

9:15 a.m.Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) and Compost Use Index

Introduces the "Seal of Testing Assurance" (STA) program for testing compost, what it is, how it works, why it's important and how it provides the basic information for the Compost Use Index. The Compost Use Index is presented as a solution to guarding against having bad experiences with compost. The "product use index" and the specific crop specifications are presented for each of the important reference crops including tomatoes, grapes, strawberries, and others.

9:45 a.m.Conservation and Food Safety Co-Management

Provides a brief overview of food safety and water quality considerations for conservation practices employing vegetation and organic materials.

10:00 a.m.Morning Break

10:15 a.m.The Impact of Compost on Soil and Plant Nutrition in Salinas Valley Soils

The discussion will cover nutrient composition of composts from various feed stocks and their impact on soil nutrition. The impact of compost use on water and soil quality will be discussed.

10:35 a.m.Composter Case Study

Provides a real-world example of where compost is manufactured, the types of compost products, and how they actually perform quality control on the compost. This presentation gives an overview of the various compost uses, including agricultural benefits of organic amendments, on regional crops of interest to our study, e.g., strawberry, grape, blueberry, etc. Examples of uses include mulching and soil amending and the associated benefits, i.e., moisture and fertility retention, soil stabilization, soil structure enhancement, and disease suppression.

11:00 a.m.Grower Case Study

Provides a real-world case study of compost use on key crops of interest. This presentation discusses the benefits, methods and cautions for using compost on different food crops. In addition to specific crop benefits, an overview of how composts are an integral part of Best Management Practices (BMP) and Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) will be presented.

11:15 a.m.Compost Production and STA

Discusses how a local, commercial compost producer works with the Seal of Testing Assurance standards and requirements, and the associated issues and benefits.

11:35 a.m.Panel Discussion

12:00 p.m.Hosted Lunch / End of Program

Speakers include:

PAUL ROBINS, RCD of Monterey County
 DR. DAVID CROHN, University of California, Riverside
 DAN NOBLE, Association of Compost Producers
 RICHARD SMITH, University of California
 Cooperative Extension
 JEFF GAGE, Vision Recycling, Inc.
 REITER BERRY FARMS



PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Phone: (951) 827-5804
 Fax: (951) 827-7374
 E-mail: sciences@ucx.ucr.edu

Confirm your reservation! Seating is limited!

Please send your RSVP to Linda Coco by e-mail at sciences@ucx.ucr.edu or phone at (951) 827-5804 or fax at (951) 827-7374 and provide the following information:

There is no fee to participate.

Name

Title

Agency/Company

Phone

Fax

E-mail Address

Mailing Address

Program includes lunch

Please check if you prefer a vegetarian lunch

Time/Date:

8 a.m.-12 p.m., April 22, 2009

Location:

Agricultural Center
 1432 Abbott St.
 Salinas, CA 93901

