

# Composting

## *What is Composting?*

Composting is the controlled breakdown of organic substances to produce a nutrient enriched soil conditioner. The decomposition occurs with the help of oxygen, different types of microorganisms, and sometimes invertebrates like earthworms.



## *Why Compost?*

Organic materials make up about 25% of the waste in the United States. When organic materials decompose in a landfill, methane gas and acid leachate are released. By controlling the decomposition and keeping the organic materials separate from other types of waste, we preserve the maximum amount of nutrients and this new soil can be used to improve growing conditions.

## *Where will we compost?*

At the start of the program, specific compost waste bins will be installed in Boulder and Iggy's. The organic waste will be picked up and taken to a facility in Baltimore County for the composting process to begin. For every ton of organic waste we send to be composted, we receive soil back to be used on campus gardens.

## *What can be composted?*

More than you might think.

- Soiled paper, including greasy pizza boxes, waxy milk containers, coffee filters, teabags, napkins, tissues, paper towels, wax paper, etc.
- Plants, including, branches, leaves, and all other organic landscaping waste
- Cardboard
- Plastic labeled compostable, including corned based cups, cutlery, etc.
- Lumber & sawdust
- Wood crates