



Master Composter Program



Houston Area *Second* Program: May 14 through 17, 2015
Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77002

Summary of Training

Certified YardWise Master Composters (MC) complete a 20-hour training course by approved MC instructors, as well as 20 hours of volunteer community service in public compost education and awareness (within six months of completing the course). MC training courses will provide at least 16 hours of classroom time to be supplemented with four hours of hands-on training. MC training courses will utilize reference texts and curriculum provided by its community coordinator, the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, with instruction given by Steve Stelzer, Program Director. Eight guest speakers familiar with composting at various levels and waste diversion in general will provide the majority of the instruction and insight to the attendees. The following are supplemental activities to fulfill the four hours of hands-on training:

- A field trip to three local composting sites
- Assigned reading in composting books provided in the course, with a follow-up presentation and/or discussion
- Meeting with local government officials to learn more about solid waste and composting services in the community
- Bring in soil samples and amend poor sandy or clay soil with compost and discuss how it changes the soil and pour equal amounts of water through each mix; compare penetration and drainage rates (and, if time allows, plant seeds in each to measure growth)

Volunteer Commitment

To be considered a YardWise Master Composter, one must also complete the required 20 hours of unpaid volunteer service (outside of job duties) within six months of completing the MC training course. This volunteer commitment consists of activities that provide benefit or information to the public about how and why to practice composting and other YardWise methods. MC candidates must record their time (excluding travel time) using the MC form provided in class and submit it to their local coordinator at the Green Building Resource Center. Examples of volunteer opportunities will be available in the class handouts.

Cost and Attendance Commitment

The program will cost the attendee \$40.00, payable by check to the City of Houston at the first class (schedule on following page). The class is limited to twenty (20) attendees. Included in the fee are three texts for each attendee: *The Rodale Book of Composting*, *Home Composting Made Easy*, and the Yardwise *A Green Guide to Lawn Care*. Please RSVP to Steve Stelzer by phone or email at the contact information below if you would like to attend. This session is targeted to individuals that would like to attend in a short time span.





Master Composter Schedule

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Thursday evening, May 14, 5:00 pm to 9

- 5:00 Welcome, Introductions, Why are you here?
- 5:30 History of Master Composter Program & Requirements
- 5:40 Speaker "Composting Mechanics"
- 6:30 Dinner Break
- 7:00 Watch 'Dirt: The Movie'
- 8:30 Yardwise Program / Adjourn at 9

Speaker

- Steve
- Steve
- John Ferguson/Nature's *Way Resources*
- Steve
- Steve

Friday evening, May 15, 5:00 pm to 9

- 5:00 Big Picture of Solid Waste
- 6:30 Dinner Break
- 7:00 Speaker "Small Scale Composting"
- 8:30 Composter Bins/ Adjourn at 9

- Sarah Mason/ *City of Houston Solid Waste Management*
- Joe Blanton/ *Houston Arboretum*
- Steve

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm

- 8:00 **The Ground Up** Field Trip and Class time
- 10:00 Drive to Arboretum
- 10:30 **Houston Arboretum** Field Trip and Class time
- noon Drive to Last Organic Outpost Field Trip
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:00 **Last Organic Outpost** composting & vermicomposting
- 2:30 Adjourn

- Andrew Jobe/ *The Ground Up*
- Joe Blanton/ *Houston Arboretum*
- Madiana Diaz/ *Last Organic Outpost*
- Joe Icet/ *Last Organic Outpost*

Sunday, May 17, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

- 10:00 Speaker "Soil Food Web"
- 11:30 Lunch and speaker Pat Greer "Event Food Composting"
- 12:30 Speaker "Composting and Mulching; Houston Scale"
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Composting Process Resources
- 3:15 Next Steps, Volunteer hours, Certificate req'ts
- 4:00 Adjourn

- Bob Randall/ *Urban Harvest*
- Pat Greer/ *Pat Greer's Kitchen*
- Lora Hinchcliff/ *Living Earth*
- Steve
- Steve

