

The Compost Post

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Three-Bin Composting in Lazarus Garden

Three-bin composting works on a system of three bins — the first bin is the “active” bin where users add their compost items. This is the *only* bin that is added to. In our garden, that is the bin on the left as you face the bins from the parking lot side.

The second (center) bin is the intermediate bin. When the first bin is full, it is emptied into the second bin. The compost in this bin can be turned, but otherwise is

left alone. This bin is “in process.” Users then put their compostables into the first bin again.

When the first bin (“active”) fills again, the second bin contents are moved to the third bin, and then the full first bin is emptied into the second bin. Users then empty their compost into the first bin as always.

The third bin — on the right, closest to the Rotary strawberries — is the “ready” bin.

The contents of this bin should be ready to use on your gardens. Compost can be taken out of the front of this bin into a bucket or wheelbarrow and taken to your garden plot.

Turning the compost in the bins helps the process. Anyone with a rake or fork can turn the whole pile during the process.

Piles in all three bins can be turned.

What Goes In?

We welcome your compostables in Lazarus Garden!

All of these go into compost bins:

Raw fruit
Vegetable peelings
Fruit and vegetables you forgot to eat
Coffee Grounds
Eggshells
Teabags
Grass clippings
Mulched leaves

Some things do not go in the compost bins. These include:

Meat
Dairy products
Cooked food scraps
Butter or other fats
Human or animal waste
Trash
Weeds
Woody plants or sticks

What, Then, Shall I do?

There are several ways for church members to get involved with the compost system at Lazarus Garden.

BASIC INVOLVEMENT:

- Save your compostables and bring them to the “active” bin to help create more compost.
- Try to balance “greens” (moist) and “browns” (dry) compost items, but don’t worry if your compost isn’t even! We’ll take it anyway.
- Always put your compost in the “active” (left side) bin.

NEXT LEVEL INVOLVEMENT:

- Using a rake or mulch fork, turn the compost in each bed. This helps the composting process, and also inhibits weed growth.
- Pull any weeds you find in and around the compost bins and toss them in the grass. The mowers will chop them up.

COMPOST ROYALTY:

- Join Compost Queen™ Jenny Sherrill to monitor and process compost, moving piles from “active” to “Intermediate” and “ready.”