

Composting with Bears in Mind

Compost can attract bears and other wildlife. Special consideration and caution should be used when bears are active - from mid-April to mid-November - to keep your compost pile from attracting bears. When composting outdoors in bear country, **THINK GREEN!**

VERMICOMPOSTING

Vermicomposting, (composting with earthworms), is a great way to compost your kitchen waste indoors, with bears in mind. Small systems can fit on your kitchen counters, others are big enough for your yard, basement or garage.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING QUICK TIPS:

Keep your compost clean, aerated, properly turned and odor-free. Lack of oxygen results in smelly compost, which is what attracts bears.

Grasses, leaves and vegetation should be the only things going into your outdoor compost pile during times of bear activity. Never compost fruit, kitchen waste, meats, eggshells, melon rinds, fish, oil or grease, bones, grains, rice or pasta, dairy products or anything else with an odor.

Sprinkle your compost with lime to aid in decomposition and reduce odor.

Cover waste with brown material (dry leaves, dry grass clippings), required for healthy composting.

County residents should consider using electric fencing.

Locate your compost pile well away from woods edge, brush and travel pathways used by bears.

Consider starting a community compost that can be secured with electric fencing at a centralized location.

What to Compost

Greens

Fresh grass clippings
Plant trimmings
Vegetable scraps
Coffee grounds
Tea bags
Human hair
Animal fur
Manure

Browns

Fallen leaves
Sawdust
Straw
Strips of newspaper
Tissue, kraft brown paper
Paper towels, napkins
Cardboard
Coffee filters
Dried grass clippings

Other

Fireplace ash
Floor sweepings
Dryer lint