



Master Composter NEWSLETTER

July 12, 2022

Introduction

Welcome to another week! Here's what this newsletter covers:

- Page 1: Weekend recap
- Page 2: Upcoming events and meetings
- Page 3: Master Composter monthly meeting agenda
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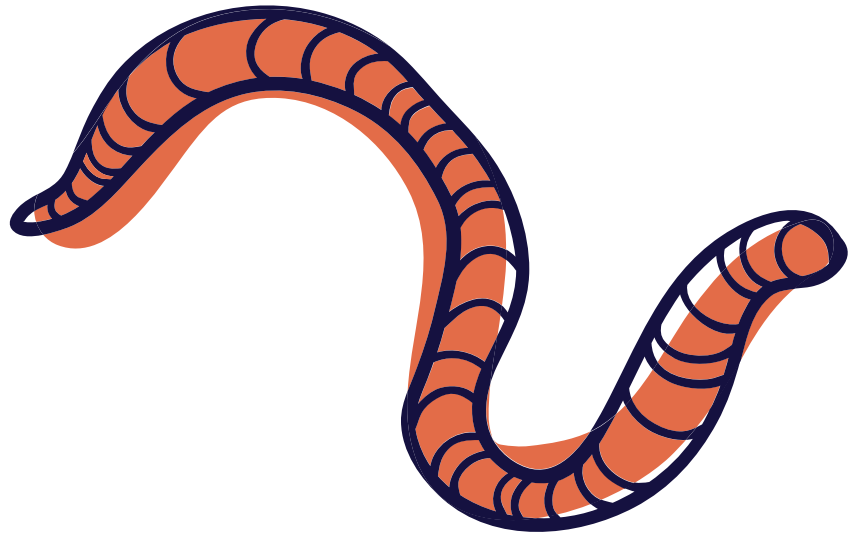
Recap & Highlights

On Saturday, the Kids Composting team met in-person for the first time in quite a few years. We had a successful chat about future plans and goals for the program. The Sunnyvale crew also lead a Compost Basics workshop on Saturday. On Sunday, Cole came out to harvest the CFT compost system at Martial Cottle Park. We went home with the most beautiful buckets of worm castings. Thank you to everyone who came out!



Upcoming

- July 12 - Kids Composting Monthly Meeting (Zoom @ 5/5:30 - 6:30pm)
- July 12 - Master Composters Monthly Meeting (Zoom @ 6:30-8pm)
- July 13 - Martial Cottle Park Steering Committee (Zoom @ 6-7pm)
- July 16 - Compost Basics Workshop (Palo Alto) - **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**
- July 16 - Community Composting Work Day (Martial Cottle Park)
- July 23 - Compost Basics Workshop (Zoom, Milpitas) - **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**
- July 30 - Compost Basics Workshop (San Jose)
- August 6 - Compost Basics Workshop (Santa Clara) - **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**



Opportunities

Please sign up for the Palo Alto Compost Basics workshop on [Saturday, July 16](#), if you are available. We do not yet have anyone signed up.

Other open workshops are [July 23](#), [August 6](#), [August 20](#), [August 27](#), [October 1](#), [October 15](#), [October 22](#), and [November 5](#).

Master Composter Monthly Meeting Agenda

July 12 @ 6:30 - 8pm on Zoom

- 5:30 Kids Composting monthly meeting
- 6:30 Master Composter monthly meeting
 - General updates
 - Sign up for workshops!
 - Martial Cottle Park
 - Community workday this weekend
 - Vermicompost to take home
- 6:45 Introductions!
 - MC Class of 2022 introductions
 - Name, city/area of residence, compost interest area, hobbies
 - Maya introduction & any questions for me
- 7:30 Google Drive run-through
 - Where everything is located
 - Make sure everyone has access



Invasive jumping worm (*Amyntas* spp.). Image source: [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#)
News source: [Mercury News](#) (Thank you, Patti, for sending this along!)

Invasive jumping worm

What you need to know about the invasive worms taking over gardens across the United States

These aggressive worms are best identified by the thick white band (clitellum) that encircles their body and is not raised, unlike other earthworms' bands.

Signs of infestation: a thick top layer of coarse worm castings with the texture and look of ground coffee.

Problem: They devour organic matter more quickly than other worms. They convert the litter layer to coarse castings rapidly, destroying habitat for soil macrofauna and leaving the topsoil vulnerable to erosion. The worms can also damage plant roots.

They've been found in the U.S. for almost 200 years, but they have only recently been identified in California. They can be found in gardens and natural areas, but are considered especially dangerous for forests.

To test for the giant worms, use a mustard pour (1/3 cup ground mustard + 1 gallon water) to bring them to the surface. Solarization of the topsoil can kill adults and eggs without harming other earthworms that will bury further into the soil. However, the best treatment is prevention: Buy heat-treated compost and mulch, and be cautious when transplanting or working on multiple sites.



COMPOST

in the

NEWS

*Articles are hyperlinked at the bottom of each box

Human composting may become legal in New York state

[Syracuse — June 2022](#)

Trench Composting

A short explanation of a simple (though longer) method of composting.

[Mercury News — July 2022](#)

Massachusetts compost facility spreads 'forever chemicals'

[Boston Globe — July 2022](#)



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