



# *Master Composter*

September 9th,  
2024

## NEWSLETTER

Victoria R teaching vermicomposting at DIY worm bin build 9/7

## Introduction

In this week's newsletter:

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## Week Recap

- First Tuesday Monthly Meeting with guest speaker Doug Millar who talked about compost conservation and carbon farming
- Officially Scheduled our first school for 24/25 SY on 9/30 (volunteers wanted!)
- Organized an outreach team to help with advertising and social media (email me if interested in participating)

## Upcoming Workshops Needing Volunteers:

Saturday 9/14/2024 Help Videhi & Pavan!	Worm Composting	Elizabeth Gamble Garden	Palo Alto
Saturday 9/28/2024	Compost Basics	Cupertino Library	Cupertino
October 5th Help Videhi & Pavan!	Worm Composting	Heritage Park Mountain View	Mountain View

## Upcoming Tabling Needing Volunteers:

Saturday, September 14, 2024	10:00 am to 5:00 pm	Tiny Home Expo	San Jose
Saturday, October 5, 2024	9:00 am - 11:30 am	MG's Fall Festival Fall Garden Fair	San Jose
Saturday, September 21, 2024	11:00 am Setup 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Pomeroy Community Garden Day	Santa Clara

## Upcoming: Kids Composting

Tessellations 9/4	6th & 7th grade	Vermicomposting	1170 Yorkshire Dr	Cupertino
Russo/McEntee Academy 9/16-17	K-2 & 3-5	Vermicomposting	2851 Gay Ave	San Jose
Hellyer Elementary 9/30 or 10/14	K-3	Vermicomposting	725 Hellyer Ave	San Jose

# Important Resources



- **Log your hours** continuously throughout the year so you don't get stuck in the June **reappointment** slump!
- You can find previous **recorded CE speakers** on the private Master Composter website.
- Looking for example presentations and other helpful resources? Check out our shared **Google Drive**.
- Bookmark & save the **Continuing Education** **Zoom** link
- Rot Crew Calendar:



**Log your volunteer hours here!**

**Watch the meeting recordings here**

**Explore the Google Drive here**

**First Tuesday CE Link**  
**First Tuesdays each month**

**6:30-8:00 P.M**

**Meeting ID: 919 3088 0896**

**Rot Crew Calendar Link**

## Signup Sheet Links

**WORKSHOP SIGNUP**

**CLASSROOM SIGNUP**

**EVENT SIGNUP**



# MCP Updates



## **Third Saturday Work Day and Monthly Meeting September 21st**

- **Please join us for a fun workday and monthly meeting**
- **Monthly Meeting will be held right after. Please join and log your attendance!**

### **Volunteer Appreciation Celebration Postponed Date TBD!!!**

- **No Work Day but will be a potluck gathering**
- **Probably October or November**

## **Wednesday Workdays**

- Join us at Martial Cottle Park from 9am -11
- Weather permitting
- Check the [rot crew google calendar](#) for more information
- This Wednesday, we will be preparing our DIY Worm Bin Build Workshop for September 7th
- **Come water our new trees! They need water at least twice a week. Get some volunteer hours by helping us water them.**

Remember to post **scan the QR code by the worm CFT** any time you come to Martial Cottle Park to let us know what you've done there!

- **Bring newspapers Martial Cottle Park!**



# EVALUATIONS

*FEEDBACK FROM YOU AND  
FOR YOU*



## **What we learned from our most recent workshop:**

- Making worm bins is super easy!
- It's important to remember that San Jose Residents put their organic and inorganic waste all in one cart and to explain how their organic waste is sorted out and processed



**Remember that we're always learning and growing and so this feedback is very informative for helping us be the best educators we can be!**



## **Notes from our Continuing Education Meeting**

- Kids Group discussed upcoming school opportunities.
- Looked at the sign in sheet together and see what schools and dates are available
- Discussed changes to Kids sign up sheet at request form that teachers fill out on our website
- Looked at the sign in sheets for workshops and community events
- Logistics for signing up for our workshops, getting credit for volunteer hours, compost education opportunities outside of our program and what to do
- Discussed the upcoming DIY worm bin build
- 



# NEW HOME COMPOSTER BINS

## >>> NEW BINS

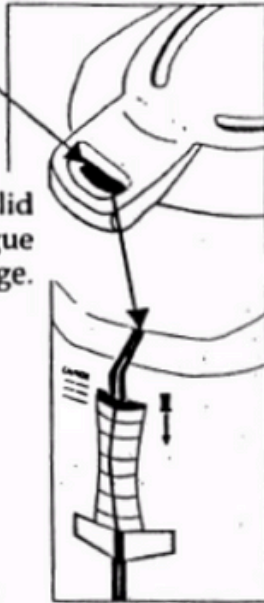
## AWESOME TIPS

We are now selling Home Composter bins in addition to our Free Garden Earth Compost bins and so I thought it would be important to let you know how we have been using them and give some instruction on how to teach people to turn them!

### Assembly Instructions (continued)

Set the lid on top, placing the handle lid (A) tongue below where the two body halves meet. To secure the lid, slide the lid lock from open to the lock position.

(B) Slide lid handle tongue under body edge.



## The HOME COMPOSTER™

Composting recycles leaves, grass, yard trimmings, and vegetative scraps from the kitchen into humus, a valuable amendment that improves the fertility and health of your soil. The HOME COMPOSTER™ has several features to assist and to speed up the decomposition process.

- The bin easily disassembles to facilitate turning, aerating, and harvesting.
- The locking lid with rain catchment system helps maintain ideal moisture.
- The two doors allow the monitoring of compost and the harvesting of small quantities. The unique design allows the doors to stay in upright position when opened.

The process of decomposition occurs naturally on the forest floor, without turning or aerating. Enclosed compost bins mimic this natural system with optimal dark and damp conditions for decay. However, turning and aerating can speed up the composting process. The HOME COMPOSTER™ gives you several easy options to turn, mix, and/or harvest your pile.

## EXPERT ADVICE

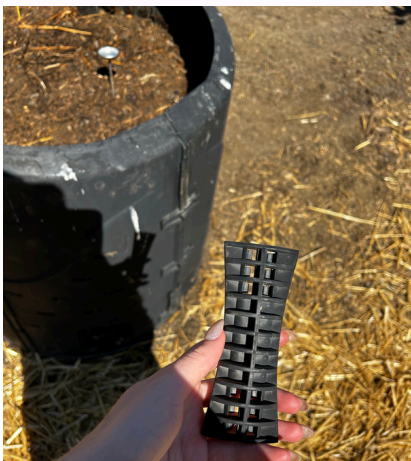
### Lifting the Unit Off the Pile

The bin's large opening makes it convenient to turn and mix materials from the top. But if you prefer to move the bin, it's very important to remove the lid before lifting the HOME COMPOSTER™ so as not to stress the lid locks. Then lift the unit off the ground and set it next to the pile. Next, pitchfork the pile back into the bin. Depending on time and conditions, the bottom portion of the compost may be ready to harvest.



### Separating the Body Halves

When separating the two body halves, it's important to always remove all four slide locks. Then move one body half away from the pile. Large quantities of finished compost can now be harvested from the bottom of the pile. Then place the two body halves together and slide the four slide locks into position.





# COMPOST

*in the*

# NEWS

\*Articles are hyperlinked at the bottom of each box

## Stop Putting Forks in Your Compost

Even products certified as "compostable" are causing headaches.

By: **Joseph Winters, Gris**



Gizmodo

## Most US voters say plastics industry should be held responsible for recycling claims – report

Research published earlier this year found that plastic producers have known for decades that plastic recycling is too cumbersome and expensive to ever become a feasible waste management solution, but promoted it to the public anyway.

By Dharna Noor



The Guardian



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