

# Upper Deerfield Township Environmental Commission

## COMPOSTING



### WHY COMPOST?

- LESS LANDFILL WASTE  
SAVES MONEY
  - REDUCES SOIL EROSION
  - RETAINS WATER
  - ADDS NATURAL NUTRIENTS
  - USE LESS FERTILIZER
  - PROMOTES FERTILITY
  - STIMULATES ROOT GROWTH
- \*REMEMBER TO CHOP,  
CUT, CRUSH AND CHIP**

**GETTING STARTED**—You can create a compost pile in any kind of bin—or right on level ground where there's good drainage. Pull out grass and weeds from a patch about 3 feet square and turn over the soil about 8 inches deep. Put the bin in the middle of this patch right on the dirt so earthworms and microorganisms can easily get to the compost. Surround it with a chicken wire fence to keep out wildlife and the neighbors' dogs. Start filling the bin with a 4" layer of twigs, hay or straw. Add another 4" layer of brown materials, then add a layer of green stuff sprinkled with fresh manure or alfalfa meal. Fill the bin with these layers and give it a week or so to get hot and start decomposing. When the pile cools off, start turning the compost, adding a little water if necessary.

### ANJEC GRANT

The Upper Deerfield Environmental Commission (UDEEC) has received a grant from the NJ Association of Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to help fund the creation of a wildlife-friendly habitat on the Munyon property, a section of preserved open space at the upper end of the playing fields behind the municipal building.

*See description on page 2*

Now it's ready for grass clippings, coffee grounds, flower tops and other wet green materials. Never add meat, fats, dairy or fish; these will all attract critters. Shredded dry brown materials make the next layer. Aerate the pile and squeeze out excess moisture. Chop, cut, crush and chip to help speed up decomposition. Turn the pile about once a month so air can reach the microbes at the center of the pile. Mix the compost with sand or soil and use as a mulch, a soil conditioner or a potting mix. Add lime to buffer excess acidity. If it gets warm in the cool months, add browns and turn over the pile to aerate. Remember: health begins in the soil.





## Pollinator Gardens for Walking Trail

The Upper Deerfield Environmental Commission (UDEEC) has received a grant from the NJ Association of Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to help fund the creation of a wildlife-friendly habitat on “the Munyon Property,” a section of preserved open space at the upper end of the municipal playing fields. Planting native plants and wildflowers will support pollinators and other wildlife near the ADA walking trail, which begins in the rain garden near the senior center and meanders along the woods and throughout the athletic complex.

The Environmental Commission will plant native plants and wildflowers in three pollinator patches totaling 2200 square feet. Once the habitat is established, informational signs will be added, helping to educate the community about the benefits of nurturing wildlife.

An educational resource for local schools, residents and visitors to the athletic complex, the pollinator gardens will also provide a vital food source for local birds.

*Photos by Rich Falk  
South Jersey Drones*



## NJ Helps Pollinators

New Jersey has passed a bill restricting the use of bee-killing neonicotinoids, also known as neonics. Amounts of these pesticides, which harm pollinators such as honey bees and monarch butterflies, are now limited in non-agricultural settings, including lawns, gardens and golf courses.

### Did You Know?

- \*It takes 60,000 bees to pollinate one acre of an orchard?
- \*Each year over 1 billion pounds of bee-killing pesticides are applied to crops in the U.S.