

August 2009 Master Gardener On-line Quiz
Making and Using Compost



Objectives:

- increase attendance** at monthly Master Gardener Meetings
- improve reporting** of volunteer hours
- provide Continuing Education** for Master Gardeners ... we raised the quiz CE to 1/2 hour
- learn about** making and using compost
- utilize** your MU Guides

Instructions:

- read [Making and Using Compost \(MU Guide G6956\)](#)
- print the quiz on pages 2-4 of this attachment and answer the questions
- answer keys will be at the August meeting ... your answer sheets will be collected and not returned
- 70% or better correctly answered questions earn 1/2 hours of CE **but you must be in attendance**
- fill out a timesheet and hand in at meeting ... use the education column on your time sheet, code 14 or go to <http://report.missourimastergardener.com/> to report your CE credit.

August 2009 Master Gardener On-line Quiz
Making and Using Compost

Name: _____

Read MU Horticulture Guide [Making and Using Compost \(MU Guide G 6956\)](#)
True or False

- ___ 1. Compost is partially decomposed organic matter.
- ___ 2. Home composters avoid hauling or utility costs associated with composting facilities and end up with a valuable soil conditioner.
- ___ 3. Missouri law allows grass clippings in landfills but not leaves or other garden refuse.
- ___ 4. Compost is especially useful for improving soils low in organic matter.
- ___ 5. Adding organic matter to sandy soils helps with nutrients and water retention.
- ___ 6. Compost is a slow release fertilizer so you will not have to add additional fertilizer.
- ___ 7. Compost is a good growing medium for houseplants or for starting seedlings.
- ___ 8. Actinomycetes are also known as filamentous bacteria.
- ___ 9. Eventually decomposition of the materials in the compost pile is done by centipedes, millipedes, sowbugs, earthworms and other organisms.
- ___ 10. In areas of the compost pile where the most intense temperatures develop some of the weed seeds and disease organisms will be killed.
- ___ 11. Branches or brush are good for placing on the bottom of a compost pile to provide aeration and will decompose along with the rest of the materials.
- ___ 12. To estimate the C:N of a mixture, average the ratios of the individual materials.
- ___ 13. A layer of soil added to the compost pile will add microorganisms that help to start the decomposition process.
- ___ 14. External temperatures will affect heat buildup and decomposition in a compost pile.

Matching: Use each answer as often as needed

- A. Microscopic
- B. Magnifying Glass
- C. Naked Eye

- D. Bad Odor
- E. No Decomposition
- F. Breakdown is not complete

- G. Not enough heat

___ 15. ... Ground beetles

___ 16. ... Fungi

___ 17. ... the pile is too small.

___ 18. ... Sowbugs

___ 19. ... the pile is too dry.

___ 20. ... Bacteria

___ 21. ... the pile may be too wet.

___ 22. ... Springtails

___ 23. ... the pile may be too tight or too wet.

___ 24. ... mix in a nitrogen source such as fresh grass clippings, manure or fertilizer.

___ 25. ... Mites

___ 26. ... the pile may be too tight.

___ 27. ... more nitrogen may be needed.

Multiple Choice ...

___ 28. The time necessary for the composting process depends on:

- A. C:N ratio
- B. Surface area of particles
- C. Aeration
- D. Moisture
- E. Temperature
- F. All of these

___ 29. The succession of organisms that decompose organic materials begin with

- A. protozoans
- B. bacteria
- C. sowbugs
- D. filamentous bacteria
- E. earthworms

___ 30. Compost should

- A. be dark
- B. easily crumbled
- C. have an earthy aroma
- D. all of these
- E. none of these

___ 31. The center of a properly made pile should reach what temperature in four to five days?

- A. 110 to 140 degrees
- B. 150 to 170 degrees
- C. 75 to 100 degrees
- D. 1,000,000 degrees

- ___ 32. Which of the following materials has a C:N ratio of 60:1?
A. Wood B. Straw C. Corn stalks D. Pig manure
- ___ 33. A mixture of equal parts poultry manure and cow manure has a C:N of ?
A. 25 B. 350 C. 15 D. 22
- ___ 34. Proper layering in a compost bin begins with
A. fertilizer B. added soil C. water D. organic materials E. none of these
- ___ 35. Which of the following is a real no-no?
A. place your pile in the shade B. place your pile away from your neighbors C. place your pile in an area of standing water D. place your pile in a convenient location E. place your pile near a water source.
- ___ 36. Fast composting
A. can produce good compost in 3 to 6 or 8 weeks B. depends on turning units C. should have materials added in larger amounts rather than frequent additions of smaller amounts D. all of these E. none of these.

26 or more correct answers is passing

... record 1/2 hour and use code 14 in the education column of your time sheet or go to <http://report.missourimastergardener.com/> to report your CE credit.

... don't forget to hand in both this answer sheet and your time sheet ... please put your name on both ... and please remember you must be at the meeting to grade and hand in your quiz.