

Composting Vocabulary

ANALYZE – reactions or organisms requiring presence of free oxygen.

ANAEROBIC – reaction or organism that does not require the presence of free oxygen.

BIODEGRADABLE – material that is able to be readily decomposed or broken down by biological means, especially bacterial action.

COMPOST – organic matter which has been decomposed by microorganisms.

DECAY – to rot away; waste away.

DECOMPOSE – break down; change form.

DECOMPOSER – microorganism which breaks down large organic molecules into smaller molecules.

DISINTEGRATE – to break up; crumble to pieces.

EARTH – the soil; dry land.

HUMUS – nutrient-rich organic matter in soil.

LEFTOVERS – food that is not eaten during a meal.

MANURE – animals' excrement (waste) used as fertilizer.

MICROORGANISM – a living thing which is too small to be seen with the unaided eye.

NITROGEN – an element with seven protons, neutrons and electrons that is found in various minerals and all proteins.

NUTRIENTS – materials a body gets from food to use for energy, growth, and repair.

ORGANIC – occurs naturally in life.

OXYGEN – atom with eight protons, neutrons, and electrons; absolutely essential for life.

ROT – to decompose naturally.

SOIL – top layer of earth's surface.

STALE – not fresh, kept too long.

