

WHY COMPOST YOUR GARDEN WEEDS AND PLANT WASTE AT QUANN GARDENS?

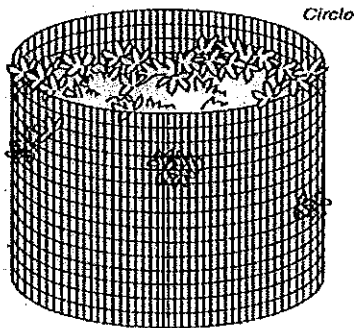
In the past, Gardeners at Quann have been able to throw weeds and waste plant materials in the area behind the gardens, between the Gardens and the tennis courts. This is no longer allowed.

Weeds and plant material is useful as nutritious compost and mulch if handled properly and should not be considered trash. If composted it can return nutrient to your garden and enrich your soil and, as it decomposes in the soil, it can loosen up the compaction of the clay.

The area behind the garden is needed for city compost delivery and wood chip storage. The piles of materials that have accumulated in the past have included glass, plastic and trash that detract from the beauty of our gardens. Also the city water line is in that area and needs to be accessible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO! Quann Gardens will help you with materials and a demonstration of how to build a Circular Bin composter on your garden space. There is a charge of \$3.00 toward the cost of purchasing materials. Wire and 3 posts are all that is needed.

Other types of composting bins can also be constructed although orange plastic fencing is not allowed in the gardens.



HOW IT WORKS: Composting With Weeds

Step 1 Mow or weed whack grassy weeds such as crabgrass, and then rake and collect the material. Do this before any seeds have formed.

Step 2 Layer your grassy weeds alternately with layers of dried, brown plant material such as fallen leaves or other plant parts in order to keep your compost oxygenated and prevent an anaerobic situation, which can cause your compost to smell unpleasant.

Step 3 Pull weeds such as plantain, mallow or spurge by hand and then snip off the roots before you place them in your compost pile. You can include the roots, but if you leave them on there's a chance the entire plant will continue growing in the compost pile.

Step 4 Include dry plant material between layers of all fresh, green weeds that you add to your compost.

Step 5 Turn your compost pile every 3 to 4 days with a pitchfork to accelerate the composting process.