



# Compost—the Soil and Water Connection

## Benefits of composting and using soil enriching composts:

- Soil enriching composts improve the structure of sandy soils allowing them to retain moisture and nutrients longer.
- Compost helps maintain healthy plant growth.
- Soil-enriching composts provide the nutrients necessary for healthy plant growth and intense colors throughout the growing season.
- Save time money, and help save the environment by enriching and amending your soil with compost.
- Compost helps improve the structure of clay and sandy soils.
- The organic matter in soil enriching composts helps break up heavy and clay soils making them lighter, freer draining and easier to work.
- Compost will cut down your watering requirements.
- Using sustainable soil-enriching composts helps prevent erosion of valuable topsoil without depleting valuable wildlife habitats.
- Compost encourages nature to work for you. Earthworms and many other beneficial creatures flourish in enriched soils. Their activities help release essential nutrients, which strengthen plants and increase their resistance to disease.
- Compost help to quickly establish new shrubs, plants and turf. The improved structure of enriched soils provides excellent growing conditions and aids root-zone establishment.
- The U.S. Composting Council operates a *Seal of Testing Assurance (STA)* program that enables participating composters to label their compost as STA approved, giving the consumer an informed choice of high quality products. (Refer to the STA section of the USCC web site for more facts and benefits.)
- Composting reduces the quantity of waste going to landfill. Composting can reduce the amount of materials discarded to landfills by up to 50%. If landfilled untreated, these organic materials will breakdown to release methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and leachate.
- A blanket of compost used to re-seed land grows vegetation more quickly and more cheaply than more mainstream methods.

Check out the [DIY Trash Can Composter](#) and [Rain Barrel Page](#) to make your own composter.