VIDEO HANDOUT

How to Compost in Your Backyard Cloze Test

Name: _____ Date: _____

This handout references the video “How to Compost in Your Backyard” that can be found at YouTube.com/TakeCareOfTexas. While watching the video, complete the Fill-in-the-Blank section of the handout.

Fill in the blank

If we would compost everything that we can compost we would probably divert anywhere between _____ of the material going into the landfill, out of the landfill. So we could divert that. That means that those landfills aren't going to be closed as quickly as they are now. So this is basically what we're using for most of our composting. It's just two by four-inch wire that you make in a circle. This is four feet tall and three feet in diameter. Which gives us around _____.

We start on the ground because you want your soil back here to come up from the ground. Don't put it on plastic or concrete. And then you start filling it with _____. We retain all of our leaves. You can see some of the leaves around. We put leaves in here. We put kitchen scraps, the materials that we use from preparing food. And we just layer it. And some grass, but we try to keep the grass on the lawn because we like to mulch.

But excess green material we put in here. Now you don't put weeds because I'm doing a cold to warm composting and the temperature is not going to be high enough to destroy the seeds. So you don't want to put any diseased material in here. You don't want to put any _____, no cat litter, dog waste because that also has diseases in it. So, you don't want to do that. And you just build this as you go up. So that's what it starts with. You can put a cylinder down the middle to let the air come in. This one, for example, this is one we constructed about two weeks ago or started constructing it.

It's a little shorter. This is a three foot, not a four foot. And this is PCV pipe that's got holes in it, goes all the way down to the bottom, it's open on both ends. When it rains, you put water in here, it disperses the water all around inside. This right now is at one hundred and twenty degrees. So this would be bordering

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on _____.

So cold composting is around 113, hot composting gets up to about 150. If it gets too high, if it gets up to 160 then you're destroying your bacteria organisms down here that you want. So, if I would dig in here, I would find _____, you can't see the bacteria of course. There'd be protozoa, there's a lot of material, a lot of living things inside of this. Now the nice thing about cold composting and warm composting is it doesn't destroy your beneficial bacteria.

Hot composting will. It's like sterilizing. So one of the reasons I like warm to cold composting is because I've got the beneficials here that are going to help my plants as they use this material. This is another one. It doesn't have as much _____. And, so, if you take the temperature of this one, it's only about ninety. This is going to take the longest amount of time to compost.

What my husband did was give me a stick and I can punch holes in this to help aerate it. And in hot you don't add anything to it. That's it. You don't add any more. This one I can keep adding stuff. So I can put some greens in here. Add some more browns. Continue to fill it up because it's composting all the way to the bottom. This has been going on for about six months. You can see the fungi growing here. Fungi good. They help to _____.

But this is one that is in the process of being recycled. Restarting over. This is the original one. This is about a four by four by three. So when we started this we put wire in to make sure we didn't lose any of the material and you can see on this some kitchen material, you see some grasses, just different kinds of browns that I had. What I do is take some of my old pots, potting material that I've transplanted. I'll mix that in here. There's plenty of _____, it works fine. You don't want to overload it because then it gets too heavy.

But we don't turn, so since we don't turn it, I don't have to worry about the weight. Now we had about 4-5 inches of rain just this week so it's nice and wet. Water is going to be one of your determining factors, and air. The carbon, green, the browns and greens you want about a 1 to 1, 2 to 1 ratio. If it doesn't work, you want to add some more greens. If it gets too cold, add more greens. You've got to put water up to about _____. You don't want the water to come oozing out of the bottom, then it's too wet. The nice thing about this one is we can dig out from underneath. So, we'll take this, we'll put it through a sifter, and that's the finished product right there and that material is about a year old.

HOW TO COMPOST IN OUR BACKARD CLOZE TEST ANSWERS

If we would compost everything that we can compost we would probably divert anywhere between **20 and 30 percent** of the material going into the landfill, out of the landfill. So we could divert that. That means that those landfills aren't going to be closed as quickly as they are now. So this is basically what we're using for most of our composting. It's just two by four-inch wire that you make in a circle. This is four feet tall and three feet in diameter. Which gives us around **30 or 40 cubic feet**.

We start on the ground because you want your soil back here to come up from the ground. Don't put it on plastic or concrete. And then you start filling it with **browns and greens**. We retain all of our leaves. You can see some of the leaves around. We put leaves in here. We put kitchen scraps, the materials that we use from preparing food. And we just layer it. And some grass, but we try to keep the grass on the lawn because we like to mulch.

But excess green material we put in here. Now you don't put weeds because I'm doing a cold to warm composting and the temperature is not going to be high enough to destroy the seeds. So you don't want to put any diseased material in here. You don't want to put any **animal waste**, no cat litter, dog waste because that also has diseases in it. So, you don't want to do that. And you just build this as you go up. So that's what it starts with. You can put a cylinder down the middle to let the air come in. This one, for example, this is one we constructed about two weeks ago or started constructing it. It's a little shorter. This is a three foot, not a four foot. And this is PCV pipe that's got holes in it, goes all the way down to the bottom, it's open on both ends. When it rains, you put water in here, it disperses the water all around inside. This right now is at one hundred and twenty degrees. So this would be bordering on **hot cold composting**.

So cold composting is around 113, hot composting gets up to about 150. If it gets too high, if it gets up to 160 then you're destroying your bacteria organisms down here that you want. So, if I would dig in here, I would find **earthworms**, you can't see the bacteria of course. There'd be protozoa, there's a lot of material, a lot of living things inside of this. Now the nice thing about cold composting and warm composting is it doesn't destroy your beneficial bacteria.

Hot composting will. It's like sterilizing. So one of the reasons I like warm to cold composting is because I've got the beneficials here that are going to help my plants as they use this material. This is another one. It doesn't have as much **aeration**. And, so, if you take the temperature of this one, it's only about 90. This is going to take the longest amount of time to compost.

What my husband did was give me a stick and I can punch holes in this to help aerate it. And in hot you don't add anything to it. That's it. You don't add any more. This one I can keep adding stuff. So I can put some greens in here. Add some more browns. Continue to fill it up because it's composting

all the way to the bottom. This has been going on for about six months. You can see the fungi growing here. Fungi good. They help **to break down the materials**.

But this is one that is in the process of being recycled. Restarting over. This is the original one. This is about a four by four by three. So when we started this, we put wire in to make sure we didn't lose any of the material and you can see on this some kitchen material, you see some grasses, just different kinds of browns that I had. What I do is take some of my old pots, potting material that I've transplanted. I'll mix that in here. There's plenty of **bacteria**, it works fine. You don't want to overload it because then it gets too heavy.

But we don't turn, so since we don't turn it, I don't have to worry about the weight. Now we had about 4-5 inches of rain just this week so it's nice and wet. Water is going to be one of your determining factors, and air. The carbon, green, the browns and greens you want about a 1 to 1, 2 to 1 ratio. If it doesn't work, you want to add some more greens. If it gets too cold, add more greens. You've got to put water up to about **50 percent**. You don't want the water to come oozing out of the bottom, then it's too wet. The nice thing about this one is we can dig out from underneath. So, we'll take this, we'll put it through a sifter, and that's the finished product right there and that material is about a year old.