

## 509. Composting

§509.010. COMPOSTING DEFINITION. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this ordinance.

Subd. 1. Compost. A mixture of decayed organic matter.

Subd. 2. Composting. Any above ground microbial process that converts yard waste to organic soil amendment or mulch by decomposition of material through an aerobic process providing adequate oxygen and moisture.

Subd. 3. Garden. Ground area for cultivation of flowers, vegetables and shrubs.

Subd. 4. Rear Yard. A yard extending across the full width of the lot and lying between the rear line of the lot and the nearest line of the principal building.

Subd. 5. Yard Waste. Means grass/lawn clippings, leaves, weeds, garden waste (tomato vines, carrot tops, cucumber vines, etc.) soft-bodied plants (flower and vegetable plants), small non-woody shrub trimmings or twigs (1/4 inch diameter maximum), pine cones and needles.

Subd. 6. Zoning Administrator. The person appointed by the City Manager, who shall be responsible for the administration of this ordinance.

§509.020. COMPOSTING.

Subd. 1. Composting is permitted only in residential properties up to four (4) dwelling units provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- a) Permitted Composting Materials. Only yard waste, straw, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells of which is generated from the site on which the composting is located. In addition, commercially available composting ingredients can be placed in a composting containers.
- b) Prohibited Materials. The following materials shall not be placed in the composting container(s): Meat, bones, fat oils, whole eggs, dairy products, unshredded branches or logs, weeds heavily loaded with seeds, plastics, synthetic fibers, human or pet wastes, diseased plants, and any other garbage or refuse except for those permitted above in "a".
- c) Composting Structure. All composting materials must be contained in a bin which may be constructed of wood, wire mesh, a combination of wood and wire or commercially fabricated compost bins designed to contain composting materials.

(Ref. Ord. No. 861, 2/11/92)

Added 2/11/92

- d) **Composting Container Size.** Composting shall be conducted within an enclosed container(s) not to exceed a total of one hundred fifty (150) cubic feet (for example, 6'x5'x5') in volume for those lots of ten thousand five hundred (10,500) square feet or less. For those lots greater than ten thousand five hundred (10,500) square feet, a total of two hundred fifty (250) cubic feet (for example 10'x5'x5') in volume, will be allowed. Maximum height of the composting container shall be five (5) feet. For composting containers larger than the above or for non-contained composting material, approval is required by the Zoning Administrator. Requests shall be submitted on the appropriate request form (to be supplied by the City) and submitted to the Zoning Administrator for his approval. If request is denied, applicant can appeal to the City Council for approval within ten (10) days of the denial.
- e) **Location.** The composting container shall be located in the rear yard of the property, and be at least two (2) feet from the property line and no closer than fifty (50) feet to any adjacent habitable building, other than the residents own home.
- f) **Maintenance.** The compost must be periodically mixed and moistened to incorporate air, to property mix wet and dry material, and to promote rapid biological degradation. The compost must provide for adequate air circulation to prevent objectionable odors to adjacent properties.
- g) **Nuisance.** The operation of composting in a manner that results in objectionable odors and/or the placing of prohibited materials in a composting container to create a health hazard is considered a public nuisance.

§509.030. PENALTIES. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance by doing any act or failing to do any act which constitutes a breach of any section of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction thereof may be punished by a fine not to exceed Seven Hundred (\$700.00) dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days or both.

§509.040. SEPARABILITY. Every section, provisions, or part of this ordinance is declared separable from every other section, provision, or part to the extent that if any section, provision or part of the ordinance shall be held invalid, it shall not invalidate any other section, provision or part thereof.

(Ref. Ord. 861, 2/11/92)