



Master Composter Program

Houston Area *Sixth* Program: September XX, 2019 (TBD)
Green Building Resource Center, 1002 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77002



Summary of Training

Certified YardWise Master Composters (MC) complete a 20-hour training course by approved MC instructors, as well as 20 hours of volunteer community service in public compost education and awareness (within six months of completing the course). MC training courses will provide at least 16 hours of classroom time to be supplemented with four hours of hands-on training. MC training courses will utilize reference texts and curriculum provided by its community coordinator, the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center, with instruction given by Steve Stelzer, Program Director. Eight guest speakers familiar with composting at various levels and waste diversion in general will provide the majority of the instruction and insight to the attendees on consecutive Thursday & Friday evenings and the following Sunday. The following are supplemental activities to fulfill the four hours of hands-on training:

- A field trip to three local composting sites on that Saturday
- Meeting with local government officials to learn more about solid waste and composting services in the community
- Experience soil samples and amend poor sandy or clay soil with compost and discuss how it changes the soil and pour equal amounts of water through each mix; compare penetration and drainage rates

Volunteer Commitment

To be considered a YardWise Master Composter, one must also complete the required 20 hours of unpaid volunteer service (outside of job duties) within six months of completing the MC training course. This volunteer commitment consists of activities that provide benefit or information to the public about how and why to practice composting and other YardWise methods. MC candidates must record their time (excluding travel time) using the MC form provided in class and submit it to their local coordinator at the Green Building Resource Center. Examples of volunteer opportunities will be available in the class handouts.

Cost and Attendance Commitment

The program will cost the attendee \$40.00, payable by check to the City of Houston at the first class (schedule on following page). The class is limited to twenty (20) attendees, and will be cancelled one week prior if less than ten RSVP by then. Included in the fee are light snacks and three texts for each attendee: *The Rodale Book of Composting*, *Home Composting Made Easy*, and the *Yardwise A Green Guide to Lawn Care*. Please RSVP to Steve Stelzer by phone or email at the contact information below if you would like to be on the list to attend, and want to be informed of the actual date for your consideration. This session is targeted to individuals that would like to attend in a short time span.





Master Composter Schedule

Houston Area *Sixth* Program: September XX through XX, 2019
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Thursday evening, September XX, 5:00 pm to 9

- 5:00 Welcome, Introductions, Why are you here?
- 5:30 History of Master Composter Program & Requirements
- 5:40 Speaker: Big Picture of Solid Waste
- 6:30 Dinner Break
- 7:00 Speaker "Composting Mechanics"
- 8:45 Yardwise Program / Adjourn at 9

Speaker

- Steve
- Steve
- Sarah Mason/*Solid Waste Management*
- John Ferguson/*Nature's Way Resources*
- Steve

Friday evening, September XX 5:00 pm to 9

- 5:00 Speaker: "Small Scale Composting"
- 6:30 Dinner Break
- 7:00 Speaker "Composting and Mulching; Houston Scale"
- 8:30 Composter Bins/ Adjourn at 9

Joe Blanton/ *Blanton Landscaping*

Lora Hinchcliff/*Living Earth*
Steve

Saturday, September XX, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm

- 8:00 **Houston Permitting Center Garden** Class time
- 9:00 Drive to Casa Juan Diego
- 9:30 **Casa Juan Diego** Field Trip and Class time
- 10:00 Drive to Mandell Park
- 10:30 **Mandell Park** Field Trip and Class time
- noon Drive to The Ground Up Field Trip
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:00 **The Ground UP** composting
- 2:30 Adjourn

Steve

Sander Harderbol/*Casa Juan Diego*

Friends of Mandell Park

Mark Bowen

Sunday, September XX, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

- 10:00 Speaker: "Soil Food Web"
- 11:30 Lunch and speaker "Event Food Composting"
- 12:30 Watch "Dirt: The Movie"
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Composting Process Resources
- 3:15 Next Steps, Volunteer hours, Certificate req'ts
- 4:00 Adjourn

Bob Randall/*Urban Harvest*

Pat Greer & HC Clark/*Pat Greer's Kitchen*

Steve

Steve

