

The Many Benefits of Composting

- Improving biodiversity and soil, water, and air health
- Reducing water consumption for all soil types
- Decreasing soil erosion and stormwater runoff
- Conserving water during drought and flood events
- Rescuing water
- Decreasing reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Increasing landfill diversion
- Creating jobs and infrastructure
- Reducing methane emissions and slowing climate change
- Sequestering/storing carbon

Visit the websites below to find out more about composting generally, and in Illinois specifically.



For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost!

The week of May 7 – 13, 2023 is International Compost Awareness Week!

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the global compost community. The week is designed to raise public awareness of the widespread benefits of composting food scraps, yard waste, and other organics, as well as using finished compost. Composting and using finished compost reduce methane emissions, capture and store carbon, and enrich soil, water, and air quality.

The 2023 ICAW theme of **For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost!** reflects the importance of using conservation and rehabilitation approaches to food and farming systems rather than extractive approaches. The theme also reflects that composting and using finished compost are crucial ingredients and part of the

recipe for feeding the world with more—and more nutritious—food. Recycling organics into compost and using it—on all land—farmland, public land, private spaces—reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides, improves and balances soil density, and decreases erosion that washes away nutrients, all of which contribute to healthier soil, plants, food, and humans.

Individuals, businesses, and other organizations in Illinois are encouraged to learn about, explore, play with, and take advantage of the many benefits of reducing food and other organic waste and creating and using compost during International Compost Awareness Week, May 7 – 13, 2023.

