

**UC Riverside Extension**  
University of California, Riverside  
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## **Compost Use and Water Conservation in Agriculture**

March 11, 2009



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Presented by California Integrated Waste Management Board and UC Cooperative Extension in Partnership with Mission Resource Conservation District

# **Compost Use and Water Conservation in Agriculture**

Spring 2009



## **Compost Use and Water Conservation in Agriculture**

**Presented by California Integrated Waste Management Board and UC Cooperative Extension Partnership with Mission Resource Conservation District**

This workshop is a segment of the Agricultural Compost Specifications Project. The funding and oversight is provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the project is administered by University of California. The goal is to improve and expand compost use in agriculture by providing reliable scientifically-derived information on suitable compost properties to California farmers. The project represents an extension of the Association of Compost Producers Use Index, which is under continuing development by researchers and technical experts, industry professionals and advisors, and feedback from farmers and other end-users of composts.

Specific tasks to be completed in the project include:

1. The development of a comprehensive set of compost specifications tailored to each of five California crops identified as being promising compost receptors.
2. Incorporation of the newly developed specifications into the existing Association of Compost Producers Compost Use Index.
3. Promotion of the newly developed specifications to the agricultural community through workshops, brochures, and continuing education materials.

Approved for 4.5 hours of OTHER credit through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. License categories PCA, QAL, and QAC.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 131  
Riverside, CA

## Program Agenda

### Morning Program

9:00 a.m. ....Welcome and Introductions

9:15 a.m. ....Compost Basics

Addresses the question, "What is compost?" providing an overview of composting methods, the aspects of the chemical, physical and biological processes. The presentation explains the importance of thermophilic processes for reduced conversion time, pathogen reduction and nutrient recycling. Additionally, makes an important distinction between the types of compost uses of mulching versus soil amending.

9:45 a.m. ....STA & Compost Use Index

Introduces the "Seal of Testing Assurance" (STA) program for testing compost, what it is, how it works, why it's important and how it provides the basic information for the Compost Use Index. The Compost Use Index is presented as a solution to guarding against having bad experiences with compost. The "product use index" and the specific crop specifications are presented for each of the important reference crops including strawberry, grape, tomato, and avocado.

10:30 a.m. ....Morning Break

10:40 a.m. ....Compost Case Study

Provides a real-world example of where compost is manufactured, the types of compost products, and how they actually perform quality control on the compost. This presentation gives an overview of the various compost uses on regional crops of interest to our study, i.e., strawberry, grape, tomato, avocado, and blueberry. Examples of uses include mulching and soil amending and the associated benefits, i.e., moisture and fertility retention, soil stabilization, soil structure enhancement, and disease suppression.

11:10 a.m. ....Grower Case Study

Provides a real-world case study of compost use on key crops of interest, including two or more of strawberry, grape, tomato, avocado, and blueberry. This presentation discusses the benefits, methods and cautions for using compost on these food crops. In addition to specific crop benefits, an overview of how composts are an integral part of Best Management Practices (BMP) and Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) will be presented.

11:40 a.m. ....Panel Discussion/Question & Answers

12:00 Noon .....Hosted Lunch

### Afternoon Program

Presented by the Mission Resource Conservation District

1:00 p.m. ....Irrigation Efficiency

This presentation addresses using irrigation efficiency as a strategy for Integrated Pest Management. Irrigation scheduling methods will be reviewed, and the latest technologies for enhanced scheduling efficiency will be introduced. Preliminary results from research conducted for testing the efficacy of these technologies will also be discussed.

3:00 p.m. ....End of Program

#### Speakers include:

DR. DAVID CROHN, University of California

MARY MATAVA, Agri Service, Inc.

DAN NOBLE, Association of Compost Producers

JUSTIN HAESSLY, Resource Conservation District



#### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Phone: (951) 827-5804

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## Confirm your reservation! Seating is limited!

Please send your RSVP to Linda Coco by e-mail at sciences@ucx.ucr.edu or phone at (951) 827-5804 or fax at (951) 827-7374 and provide the following information:

There is no fee to participate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Program includes lunch sponsored by  
Mary Matava and Agri Service, Inc.**

Please check if you prefer a vegetarian lunch

#### Time/Date:

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., March 11, 2009

#### Location:

Fallbrook Public Utility District Office  
990 E. Mission Rd.  
Fallbrook, CA 92080

