JUNE: FUNGI

Your Master Gardeners are running a 3-part series on **Fungi, Bacteria, and Invertebrates . . .** aptly called **F-B-I**. If you missed last month's first part on **Fungi**, here is a repeat:

When a compost bin has been constructed and ingredients assembled, compost begins its process of turning those food scraps, leaves, grass clippings, into the finished product. Fungi is an essential part of a healthy compost pile. If you see MOLD in a compost pile, Fungi is behind the scenes doing its job.

Woodchips and leaves are a good source of Fungi in a compost pile or bin. Fungi aids in decomposition and provides nitrogen to compost and

soil. This is called Mycorrhizal fungi and occurs naturally in healthy soil. In soil this fungi also provides plants with phosphorus, copper, potassium, along with other minerals. The plants, in turn, provide carbon in the form of sugars from photosynthesis from the sun.

Want to learn more about Mycorrhizal fungi and the many benefits it brings to the compost pile and ultimately to the garden? If so, click on ***FUNGI1*** for an article from *Compost Magazine* on the subject and click on ***FUNGI2*** for a YouTube video on the subject.