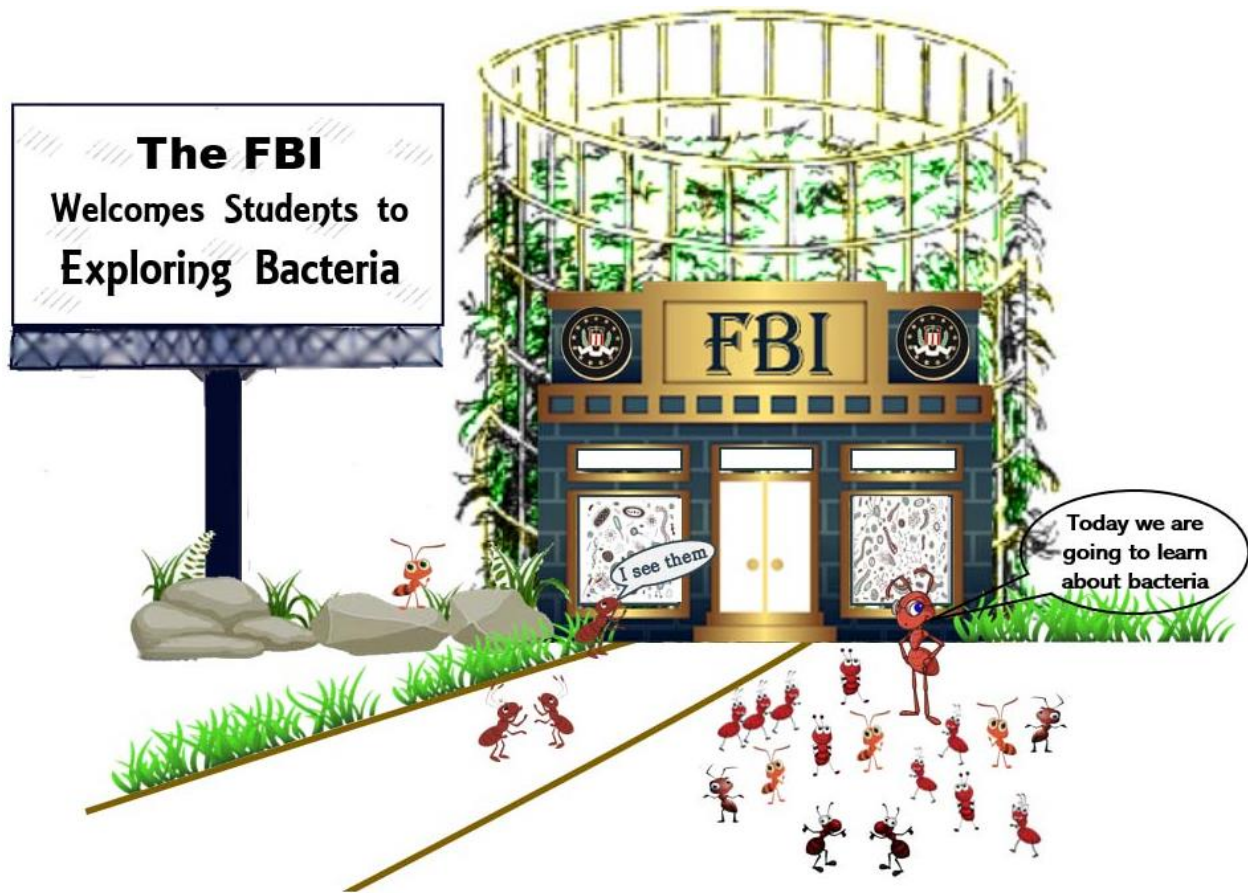


JULY: BACTERIA



The month of July contains the second installment of the Compost Connection's FBI series - ***Bacteria***.

Bacteria, also often called "germ", is necessary with fungi and invertebrates in the process of composting. Aerobic bacteria is vital to the decomposition process. Bacteria cannot be seen with the naked eye, however, we know its there and working when the compost pile starts to heat up. Bacteria combines with other microbes and insects to combine "forces" to turn grass clippings, leaves, food wastes, yard trimmings, and other material into usable compost.

The most abundant type of decomposer is the aerobic bacteria. As the compost pile's temperature rises, different bacteria take over and thrive to decompose. However, compost must not reach a temperature in excess of 160 degrees F. That's when the good productive bacteria starts to die. This is important compost knowledge.