

4 tips for Fall Compost



01 Timing!

Raw manure or compost of animal origin (like half-eaten food waste), should be applied 90 days before harvest (if not touching edible portion of the crop) or 120 days before harvest (if touching edible portion of the crop).

02 Treatment

If you use compost of animal origin after the 90-120 day pre-harvest interval, one option is to ensure the compost reaches 131° F for 15 days with at least 5 turnings, or reaches 131° F for 3 days. These options reduce microorganisms of public health significance like E.coli. Contact your local produce safety technician to brainstorm what works for you!

03 Location

Compost must not contaminate areas where covered activities take place (harvesting, growing, packing, holding). Consider covering piles, building berms, and avoiding placing piles up slope to prevent wind and water runoff.

04 Keep things separate

After turning or handling compost, wash your hands! Use designated equipment for compost handling. If you clean the barn, change your boots before going in the produce field.

