



## Standards for Becoming a Master Composter



### *Training*

To be considered a YardWise Master Composter, one must complete a 20-hour training course by an approved MC instructor, as well as 20 hours of volunteer community service in public compost education and awareness (within one year of completing the course). MC training courses should provide at least 16 hours of classroom time to be supplemented with four hours of hands-on training. MC training courses will utilize reference texts and curriculum provided by its community coordinator, and instruction will be given by a MC instructor or guest lecturer. The following are suggested supplemental activities to fulfill the four hours of hands-on training:

- A field trip to a local composting site and/or backyard compost demonstration site; make a hot compost pile in a bucket or bin by replicating materials, moisture, pile size, and other factors
- Conduct a waste audit of a trash can to identify and quantify easily compostable materials
- Assigned reading in a composting book or magazine, with a follow-up presentation and/or discussion
- Meeting with local government officials to learn more about solid waste and composting services in the community
- Meeting with an educational group, such as Texas AgriLife Extension or Master Gardeners, to discuss more in depth specific YardWise practices (native plants, water conservation practices, etc.)
- Bring in soil samples and amend poor sandy or clay soil with compost and discuss how it changes the soil
- Put samples of soils, compost, and mixes into nursery containers and pour equal amounts of water through each mix; compare penetration and drainage rates (and, if time allows, plant seeds in each to measure growth)
- Any other activity approved by STAR (include info with agenda)

### *Volunteer Commitment*

To be considered a YardWise Master Composter, one must also complete the required 20 hours of unpaid volunteer service (outside of job duties) within one year of completing the MC training course. This volunteer commitment consists of activities that provide benefit or information to the public about how and why to practice composting and other YardWise methods. MC candidates must record their time (excluding travel time) using the form provided and submit it to their local coordinator. Examples of volunteer opportunities can be found on the handout: *Master Composter Volunteer Commitment: Examples*.