

Name _____

Date _____



“Leaf” It in Your Yard (Composting) Student Tips for Managing a Compost Pile



Before You Begin...

- 1) Read and sign the Compost Safety Contract.
- 2) Make sure you have the following materials: goggles, shovel or pitchfork, meter stick, water, and troubleshooting page (Data Sheet 4). Other optional materials include work gloves and a temperature probe.
- 3) Know your job responsibilities:
 - Recorder:** Keeps a log that describes what the team did in 50 words or more.
 - Tool Manager:** Oversees the safe transport and use of all tools. Is responsible for turning the pile.
 - Measurer:** Measures the pile height and temperature before and after turning the pile. Gives this information to the Recorder. Also responsible for adding water during turning (only if needed).

Independent Team Maintenance

- 1) Measure pile height and temperature at the center of the pile. If no thermometer is available, record temperature as either warmer, cooler, or about the same as your body temperature.
- 2) Carefully remove the compost bin and put it next to the pile.
- 3) Turn and water the pile. Refill the compost bin starting at the top of the compost and working your way down. If you have no compost bin, simply move the pile four feet over as you turn it. While turning, water any areas of the pile that are dry and crumbly. Do not put a large amount of water in any one spot. Never use more than four liters of water on an average sized pile (3'x3'x3'). Remember, the pile should be moist (not wet), like a wrung-out sponge.
- 4) Measure pile height and temperature at the center of the pile. If no thermometer is available, record temperature as either warmer, cooler, or about the same as your body temperature.

After You Finish

- 1) Check the area to make sure it looks neat and clean.
- 2) Return all materials safely to their place and **WASH YOUR HANDS.**
- 3) Report your findings to the class.