



Composting at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church Garden 2013 to 2024

Prior to constructing the raised bed and fenced garden space we enriched our soil and continue to enrich our soil with 14 yd.³ of a sawdust/horse manure mixture that had cured outside the horse barn for 2 to 3 years. We spread this mixture in the raised beds as well as on the ground garden area on a regular yearly basis. We prep the ground garden and the raised beds with a rototiller first, followed by spreading the manure/sawdust mixture about 4 inches deep and then rototill it again. Initially we checked pH which was acidic and we continue to add 40 to 80 pounds of lime each time we amend the soil.

We constructed four 4' x 4' x 4' compost bins that we created when we built our raised bed and fenced in garden in 2014. The idea was to take the garden waste, place it in the 4 bins and layer this with 12" of the sawdust/horse manure mixture as we filled the bins and let it decay over 2 to 3 years. We would then use that material to place in the raised beds and on the ground garden instead of the just the sawdust/horse manure mixture.

When we became an Earth Care Congregation we decided to involve more people in the congregation in the process of composting for the garden. We did the following: 1. Visited Lynchburg Grows to see how they processed their compost from the community 2. Visited <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home> 3. Sponsored a Tomato Sandwich Lunch after church and educated the congregation about composting. Passed out fifteen 5 gallons buckets for church members who were interested 4. Contacted Lynchburg Daily Bread, asking them to provide us with two 5 gallon buckets twice weekly with green organic waste 5. We applied for a grant from PoP Earth Care workgroup to pay for two 50 gallon compost tumblers. Using the tumblers for ½ year we created 85 gallon of compost.

