

## Composting Principles and Practices SC 344

### Catalog Statement

Fundamentals of compost production, use and regulation will be presented through lectures, lab and a fieldtrip.

### Course Format

This course will meet for 1 one-hour session per week for 8 weeks and students will be required to participate in one full day Saturday fieldtrip.

### Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the role of compost and nutrient cycling in a sustainable agricultural system.
- 2) Become familiar with the means by which compost is produced, classified, used, and regulated.
- 3) Experience hands-on learning exercises through field work and a fieldtrip.
- 4) Examine current compost research in scientific journals.

### Course Specifics

Instructor: Adriane (Addy) Elliott  
Office: W107 Phone: 491-6984  
Cell: (970) 218-8305  
Email: [Adriane.Elliott@ColoState.edu](mailto:Adriane.Elliott@ColoState.edu) **(BEST WAY TO REACH ME!)**

Textbook: On-Farm Composting Handbook. 1992. Robert Rynk (ed.), Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service, Ithaca, NY.

Other readings: Distributed in class.

Prerequisites: SOCR 240 Introduction to Soil Science

Grading:	Take home exams (2):	90 points each =	180 points
	Homework (3):	20 points each =	60 points
	Final paper (1):	40 points =	40 points
	Class participation:	20 points =	<u>20 points</u>
			<b>300 points total</b>

## Course Outline

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Aug. 25	Compost: The big picture, Homework: Carbon and Nitrogen Cycle
2	Sept. 1	Make Class Compost Piles (meet at PERC- 613 W. Lake St.) Homework: Assign data collection and management days/times
3	Sept. 8	Understanding different compost systems and compost microbiology
4	Sept. 15	Compost Quality Measurements and Interpretation
5	Sept. 22	Compost utilization and application
6	Sept. 29	Environmental assessments for compost site determination / state regulations (CO Dept. of Ag. and CO Dept. of Public Health & Environ)
7	Oct. 6	Jean Reeder?
8	Oct. 13	Student presentations

### **Fieldtrip Options:**

**October 1 (9:00am - 2:00 pm)**

**October 8 (9:00am - 2:00 pm)**

**October 15 (9:00am - 2:00 pm)**