



5 COMPOSTING

Composting is nature's way of recycling.

PK–2ND GRADE

Learn more about composting at the farm and how worms help this process.

1. GET STARTED

Did you know that food can be recycled?

Some of our leftover food, like banana peels, apple cores and kale stems, can be recycled by composting. Composting is when organic items decompose or decay. They break down into smaller pieces and eventually turn into soil. The same thing happens in the forest with dried leaves, branches, and dead trees.

Composting is nature's way of recycling!

2. DIVE IN

How do we compost at The JK Community Farm?

- ▶ Look at the three boxes. It is called three-tier composting, because each box has compost in a different stage of decay.
- ▶ Walk by the three bins—which one do you think has the freshest material? Which one is most decomposed? How can you tell?

Another way to compost is with **worms**—that is called **vermicomposting**.

- Worms are great recyclers because they eat rotten food, as well as decaying plants, and cardboard and paper. Everything that worms eat passes through their bodies and is turned into rich fertile soil.

- Look at the worm bin near the compost bins. You can dig through the worm bin to carefully watch the worms and, if you would like, gently pick one up to take a closer look. Please gently return them to the bin when you are finished.
- The worm diagram below and in the resource book will help you identify different parts of the worm's body.

LEARN MORE

The FoodPrints TV Video [All About Compost](#) provides additional background about composting. When cooking, be sure to save carrot peels, apple cores and cauliflower leaves for the compost bin. For further information about worms, check out [The Worms in the Garden lesson](#) and [video](#).

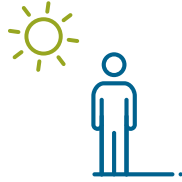


HOW DO WE COMPOST AT THE JK COMMUNITY FARM?

Here at The JK Community Farm we use mushroom-based compost. Food scraps, along with dead plant material, are recycled into nutrient rich soil—with the help of decomposers. The three -bin system enables us to move the compost to a separate bin as the materials begin to decompose.

FIELD TRIP MAP

parking lot



1 HUMAN SUNDIAL

picnic tables



2 GREENHOUSES



3 RAISED BEDS



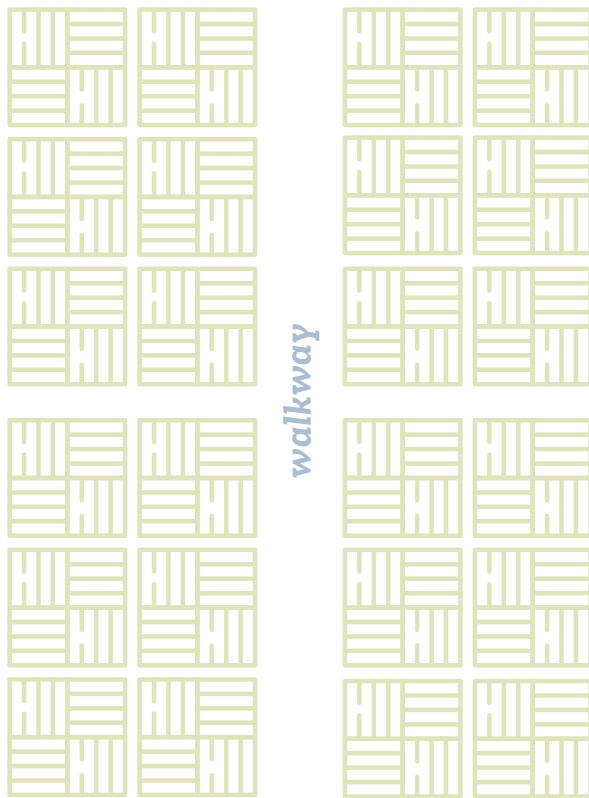
4 "APIARY" BEE HIVES



5 THREE TIER COMPOST SYSTEM



6 BLUEBIRD TRAIL STARTING POINT



walkway



7 BEE HOTEL



10 EDIBLE FLOWERS



9 SENSORY FOOTPATH



8 POLLINATOR HABITAT