



Fertilization: Understanding and Using Bokashi Composting

Bokashi composting is a unique method of recycling organic waste. Unlike traditional composting, it uses an anaerobic fermentation process rather than decomposition.

Bokashi Composting Benefits

- **Minimal odor:** The fermentation process produces little to no odor and avoids harmful emissions.
- **Quick results:** Bokashi composting has a faster processing time compared to other methods.
- **Versatile materials:** It can handle materials that traditional composting cannot.
- **Soil health:** The microbes in bokashi bran enrich the soil, supporting healthier plants and more nutritious fruits and vegetables.

How to Use Bokashi Compost

After fermentation, bury the compost under at least eight inches of soil. This ensures proper integration into the soil and helps deter rodents.



Learn More

For additional details on Bokashi composting, watch **“What is Bokashi and How is it Used?”**

Help Reduce Your Carbon Footprint PLANT A TREE AT GARDEN CENTER 1

We are seeking 22 volunteers to plant trees along the parking lot of Garden Center 1, adjacent to Moulton Parkway. As a gardener, you will:

- Dig a hole and prepare the soil with amendments, and
- Commit to weeding around the tree as needed.

A watering system will be installed later to maintain the trees. Each tree will be marked with a custom stake featuring a message of your choice—such as a poem, a dedication to a loved one or another meaningful sentiment.

- **Cost per stake:** \$20
- **Note:** All messages are subject to approval by GRF/ Recreation and Special Events Department.

Event Details

- **Date:** December 15
- **Contact:** Volunteer coordinator Annie at anniezipkin@aol.com to participate or for more information.

Join us to make a lasting impact!



Caring for Your Poinsettia During the Holidays

While in full bloom, poinsettias thrive in semi-cool, humid conditions with bright, indirect light. Keep the soil moist by watering thoroughly and ensuring good drainage, but avoid leaving the pot in standing water. To boost humidity in dry rooms, group plants together or use a humidifier.

After the Holidays

- Place the poinsettia in a sunny location and water it well.
- Prune all branches back to about six inches from the pot's rim.
- Consider repotting using similar soil.
- You can keep poinsettias indoors year-round or move them outdoors for summer. If outdoors, sink the pot into a sunny, protected garden area.

Promoting Growth and Blooms

- Once new growth reaches six to 10 inches, pinch

the tips monthly until mid-August to encourage branching.

- In fall, bring the plant indoors when nights grow longer.
- From September to November, provide 12 hours of darkness nightly by covering the plant or placing it in a dark room.
- During the day, ensure the plant receives ample light to store energy for blooming.

Blooming Season

When blooms appear, maintain semi-cool, humid conditions with bright, indirect light. Ideal temperatures are 65-70°F during the day and 55-60°F at night.

Learn More

- [More on Poinsettia Care](#)
- [Holiday Plant Care Guide](#)

A Note From Tom McCray

I hope you're all enjoying the arrival of fall and the cooler weather it brings. With this seasonal change, it's time for gardeners to adapt to the shifting conditions and prepare their plots for the winter months ahead. Maintaining your garden year-round is essential to ensure a thriving, enjoyable environment for everyone. An unkept plot not only detracts from the garden's overall appearance but can also spread invasive weeds to neighboring plots. Let's all do our part—start planning now to keep your garden in great shape throughout the season!

NATURAL WEED KILLER: VINEGAR SOLUTION

Combining 45% vinegar with water and dish soap creates a powerful yet natural weed-killing alternative. This high-strength vinegar is readily available online or at home improvement stores. For a step-by-step guide, watch "[Using Vinegar to Kill Weeds.](#)"

