

Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Agriculture Course No. HO445

Title of Course: Composting and Utilization in Horticultural Systems Revision

New X

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Compost production methods, chemical and biological processes, quality, and utilization in horticultural cropping systems. Two hours lecture and one 2 hr laboratory (3).

II. Prerequisite (s):

HO 110, or AO 120, or BS 105, or UI 360 or other suitable course as determined by the instructor.

III. Objectives of the Course:

- A. Understand the feedstocks, processing procedures, and quality of horticultural composts.
- B. Understand the plant benefits and potential hazards and regulations associated with horticultural composts.
- C. Understand the utilization of composts in ornamental crop production and landscape systems.
- D. Understand the utilization of composts in food crop production systems.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (minimum of 3)

- A. Student will be able to identify heavy metal hazards associated with horticultural compost utilization.
- B. Student will be able to measure compost quality.
- C. Student will be able to articulate methods to prepare useful horticultural compost.

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. Read required material prior to class attendance and be prepared to discuss it fully and intelligently.
- B. Actively participate in class discussions
- C. Meet all announced deadlines for assignments.
- D. Read appropriate supplementary materials.
- E. Successful completion of all assignments and forum participation.
- F. Missing and/or incomplete assignments will be discounted as follows:
 - a. One day late = 25% reduction in points
 - b. Two days late = 50% reduction in points
 - c. Three days late = Zero will be recorded for the assignment
- G. Successful completion of all examinations and quizzes

VI. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

Topic	Lecture(s)
A. Compost production methods, chemical and biological processes, and quality.	3 weeks
B. Utilization of compost in horticultural cropping systems.	5 weeks
C. Benefits of compost utilization in horticultural cropping systems.	4 weeks
D. Hazards, precautions and regulations of compost production and utilization.	3 weeks

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

A. Textbooks:

Stofella, P.J. and B.A. Kahn. 2001. *Compost Utilization in Horticultural Cropping Systems*. Lewis Publishers. ISBN: 1-56670-460-X.

Field Guide to On-Farm Composting – edited by Mark Dougherty, NRAES. Publication Number: NRAES-54; ISBN: 0-935817-19-0

B. Selected class handouts provided by the instructor.

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

One One-Hour Exam.....	15 percent
Four Unscheduled Quizzes.....	20 percent
Four Homework Assignments.....	20 percent
Four Laboratory Assignments.....	20 percent
Classroom and Forum Participation Points.....	10 percent
One Two-Hour Final Exam (comprehensive).....	<u>15 percent</u>
Total.....	100 percent

Grading Scale: 100-90 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), less than 60 (F)

Attendance and Work Ethic

You are expected to be in class, punctually, for the entire duration of the class, each time the class is held. The official statement about attendance, derived from the Undergraduate Bulletin, may be accessed at:

<http://www.semo.edu/bulletin/pdf/2006Bulletin.pdf>

Academic honesty

The Undergraduate Bulletin defines academic dishonesty as “...those acts which would deceive, cheat, or defraud so as to promote one’s scholastic record...,” and states that “violations of academic honesty represent a serious breach of discipline and may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the university.” You are expected to understand and abide by this rule. Any academic dishonesty, including any form of cheating including plagiarism will not be tolerated and the individual will be referred to judicial affairs.

- The official statement about academic honesty, including plagiarism, may be accessed at: <http://www.semo.edu/bulleting/pdf/2006Bulletin.pdf>
- Additional information may be accessed at: <http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/>

Civility and Harassment

In this class we will maintain a climate of mutual respect and orderly conduct. Judicial Affairs is responsible for addressing such matters and that information is available at:

<http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/>

Disabilities

Diversity in all its forms merit the respect of the faculty, and this applies equally to students with disabilities. Students may obtain official information about disabilities from Learning Assistance and Disability Support Services, located at: <http://www.semo.edu/cs/services/lec.htm>